

Country comes first, Prime Minister tells firemen

The Prime Minister told demonstrating firemen at Neath, West Glamorgan, last night that he sympathized with them, but the country came first. Earlier the Home Secretary had admitted in a message to local authorities that there seemed to be no likelihood that the proposed national strike, starting on Monday, could be averted. Up to 12,000 Servicemen are on standby.

12,000 troops stand by as peace talks fail

By Michael Horsnell and Donald MacIntyre
Up to 12,000 Servicemen are now standing by to take over from the 48,000 firemen threatening to start a national strike on Monday.

And leaders of the Fire Brigades Union made clear last night that the strike planned would go ahead. Six hours of talks had failed to produce an settlement on their 30 per cent pay claim.

There are no plans for further formal negotiations until Wednesday, two days after the strike is due to begin. The Home Office, finalizing contingency plans, confirmed yesterday that it had told chief fire officers that no Servicemen would be allowed to enter fire stations or use their equipment, in an attempt to avert exacerbating the industrial dispute.

The Servicemen will man 850 Green Goddess appliances, which have been kept in Home Office depots ever since.

In London, for example, out 100 of them will be brought into use, compared with the 250 modern appliances normally in use.

Fire stations will be locked in many areas, and Servicemen will be based at strategic points, such as Territorial Army barracks, where special communications equipment will be adequate links with fire stations.

But the main difficulty, the answering of 999 calls in some areas fire control will not be able to handle 25 calls a minute.

In other areas the Post Office will have to reroute fire calls to Ministry of Defence bases, or to the fire services.

These difficulties mean that in some cases there could be a half an hour's delay in getting fire engines to the scene, said yesterday.

I still cannot believe that the country will not respond when a fire is out of control. I will not let it happen. I will not let it happen. I will not let it happen.

The Home Office confirmed that the greatest threat of poor fire coverage was in the large metropolitan areas. In rural areas, where many of the nation's 16,000 part-time firemen are not members of the Fire Brigades Union, many fire stations are expected to be manned to a tolerable level.

The right of firemen to strike was questioned yesterday by Mr Geoffrey Boyes, assistant chief fire officer in West

Captured terror suspect was sought for Schleyer murder

From Patricia Clough Bonn, Nov 11

The West German Federal Criminal Office said today that one of the terrorist suspects captured after a gunfight in Amsterdam last night was Gard Richard Schneider, aged 28, and not Rolf Clemens Wagner, as had been stated by the Dutch police.

It confirmed that the other was Christoph Wackernagel, aged 26, one of the 16 people wanted for the kidnapping and murder of Dr Hans-Martin Schleyer and other crimes.

The office said that Herr Schneider was already known to have links with the terrorists and was suspected of taking part in a bomb attack on a court building in Zweibrücken, Rhineland-Palatinate, on October 31 in protest at the deaths of the three Baader-Meinhof terrorists in jail.

Eight other people have been arrested in Karlsruhe and Kaiserslautern, Herr

Schneider's home town, in connection with the attack, which caused damage but no injuries. There were no indications that Herr Schneider had been involved in the Schleyer kidnapping. The arrests indicated links between the "hard core" of the terrorists and a little-known group operating in south-west Germany.

The arrests were the first breakthrough in the European-wide search for the 16 terrorists. A spokesman for the office said that there were believed to be hiding in the Netherlands and elsewhere in Europe.

Herr Wackernagel, a former film crew man, is also suspected of taking part in the murder of Siegfried Buback, the federal prosecutor, and Jürgen Ponto, the Dresden Bank chief, earlier this year. He is believed to have taken the photographs of the video film of Herr Schleyer which were sent to the Government during the kidnapping as proof that



Gard Richard Schneider (left) and Christoph Wackernagel: Captured after gunfight with police in Amsterdam.

the industrialist was alive. Amsterdam, Nov. 11.—The Dutch, increasingly accustomed to terrorist bloodbaths, were told today that West German

seriously wounded last night in a gun battle with police after leaving their refuge, a sixth-floor apartment in the west of the city.

Both were seriously wounded in the shootout with police and Herr Schneider was said tonight to be near death. Three police officers were wounded during the battle before they were taken to a hospital in satisfactory condition.—AP and UPI.

Stuttgart, Nov. 11.—The scandal surrounding the prison deaths of the three Baader-Meinhof leaders widened today when more explosives were found in their cell block.

The public prosecutor's office said that builders carrying out excavation work on the seventh floor of the top-security Stammheim jail found about 140z of explosives and three detonators. They were hidden behind a wall in a cell which had been occupied by another of the group, Ingrid Schubert, officials said.—Reuter.

Rare stamps from Nazi hoard start dispute

From David Blaser Washington, Nov 11

As the Second World War drew to a close, Nazi officials who feared destruction of priceless art works and other treasures in Berlin arranged to hide some extremely rare stamps from the Imperial Postal Museum, along with other valuables, in the shaft of a salt mine in Saxony.

Some of the treasures were recovered after the collapse of the Third Reich in 1945, but eight of the stamps could not be traced. They were an orange penny and a blue two-pence dated 1847 from Mauritius; a two-cent magenta dated 1850 and a four-cent blue dated 1856 from British Guiana; a two-cent and a five-cent so-called Hawaiian "missionary" from 1851-52; one 13-cent Hawaiian from 1851-52 and one 13-cent Hawaiian Islands-United States.

The two-pence blue Mauritius and the 13-cent Hawaiian Islands-United States stamp—both on covers—are almost legendary items.

The missing stamps turned up 14 months ago in a trunk in the attic of a retired man in suburban Philadelphia. He tried to sell them at a stamp exhibition, but was tentatively offered \$500,000 (\$270,000). Then the would-be buyers became wary.

When informed on September 28 by a customs agent that the stamps were officially listed as stolen from the Imperial Postal Museum in Berlin, the man surrendered them to the United States Customs office in Philadelphia.

Now, however, the United States Government finds itself in a quandary regarding the stamps. East Germany claims them because they belonged to a museum situated in what is now East Berlin. West Germany contends that they are the rightful property of the Bonn Government as the legal successor of the Third Reich.

West Germany's postal ministry has offered a reward that could amount to \$50,000 for the recovery of the stamps.

But Mr Martin Appelbaum, a Philadelphia stamp dealer who has examined the stamps, says the ownership question may be further complicated because he has heard rumors that Nazi authorities might have illegally confiscated the stamps from a private collection in the first place.

A State Department official who has dealt with initial questions from both West and East Germany governments, venturing claims to the stamps, said it was "going to be an agonizing decision."

The reappearance of the stamps and the international legal problems they have raised were pieced together from interviews with Customs officials, stamp experts, and diplomats.

As related by Mr Robert Laratta, special agent of the United States Customs office in Philadelphia, the man who surrendered them got the idea that he might have something valuable during a private exhibition in Philadelphia in the autumn of 1976.

He saw a notice in a local newspaper that, at the exhibition, two Mauritius stamps sold for a total of \$380,000. He was intrigued, and that re-

Power men's stewards vote to end dispute

By Paul Roudledge Labour Editor

The power workers' unofficial pay revolt, a work-to-rule fizzle out yesterday when the shop stewards' committee voted to reject a strike call and recommended a return to normal working as soon as possible. No further power cuts are expected.

The end of the 17-day dispute which has cost the industry between £15m and £20m, came at a meeting of the shop stewards in Doncaster, where industrial action was first called over shift pay and other fringe benefits. It was decided to call off the work-to-rule from 10 pm last night.

By last night only two power stations, the 2,000-megawatt Fiddler's Ferry on Mersey and the atomic plant of Wylfa, on Anglesey, were out of action. The shop stewards recognized that the men would not heed the militant call for an all-out strike which had been made by Yorkshire shopkeepers.

Mr Glyn England, chairman of the Central Electricity Generating Board, welcomed the return to normal work and said the first priority was to restore public confidence in the industry. "It has been shown, although I am sure that the determination of the great majority of power men is to continue to work, that the general public," he said.

The CEB had calculated that after making a surplus of nearly £13m last year, it would only break even this year. The chances of achieving even that limited target are now considered slight.

Although the power cuts have ended, the work of returning to normal at all power stations is likely to take several weeks. Production schedules will be disrupted.

The men's action has won them travelling allowances of 50p a week but their two other demands, for increased shift allowances and concessionary electricity on the lines of the miners' free coal, will not be answered until the employers reply to the annual pay claim next spring.

Mr Benn accused, page 2



Early morning dip for the Prince of Wales at Cottesloe beach, in Perth, yesterday as the last day of his leaving tour in Australia.

he hoped the child, his sister, Princess Anne, is expecting will be a girl. Being kissed by several young women on his tour had been a marvellous experience. "I'd rather be kissed than slapped."

Barclays to cut costs by downgrading or merging 600 branches

By Christopher Wilkins

Barclays Bank is planning a radical restructuring of its branch system which is expected to affect as many as 600 branches or about 20 per cent of its total network.

The restructuring will in some cases involve mergers of branches and in others substantial downgrading of the facilities now offered. It will mainly affect branches in the larger suburban areas, and some 10,000 of the bank's 55,000 staff will be involved.

The need for big cuts in the branch network has emerged from an internal survey carried out by Barclays over the past year, the results of which have now been circulated to the branches. The survey showed that the bank had more branches than it could justify.

Detail of the restructuring has not yet been settled. Having completed the general survey Barclays has now asked its 35 local directors to do detailed studies in their own areas and to report back by early next year. The changes will then be effected during 1978 although the full programme is likely to take several years.

Mergers are expected where existing branches are close together. In other cases

Barclays will try to cut the cost of running branches by reducing the range of services so as to cater only to personal customers. Corporate business will be moved to other branches and in some instances the bank will make much more extensive use of automated tellers to supply basic banking needs.

The desire to reduce the size of the 3,100-strong branch network has become particularly strong recently as a result of the fall in interest rates which has eaten deeply into the profitability of the branches.

Maintaining an extensive branch network has become a further factor depressing the bank's profits. Some 70 per cent of Barclays' costs are in the form of wages and salaries, and between 1972 and 1976 the wage bill rose by more than 50 per cent.

But during the present year bank base rates have fallen from 14 to 6 per cent. Loans to prime corporate customers, who pay 1 per cent over base rate for overdrafts, are thus being made at negligible profit.

A further factor depressing branch profitability has been the progressive loss of savings deposits to the building societies and National Savings as bank deposit rates have become less competitive.

Record cash flow may bring 8 3/4% mortgages

By Margaret Stowe

Records were shattered by the building society movement in the mortgage market, both in receipts and in new business, as buyers reached new heights. Net receipts rose to £390m compared with £462m in September, while commitments were an outstanding £770m.

This wealth of money, however, has not persuaded the Building Societies Association to announce a further drop in the mortgage interest rate. There is little doubt, however, that if money continues to roll in at such a pace the societies will be forced to announce a rate cut next month.

The societies are beginning to become embarrassed by the amount of money coming in. Some of it is certainly corporate money, although the building societies are trying to deter company clients by demanding fixed period investments or even offering a lower investment rate.

What is impressing people both inside and outside the movement, however, is that house prices are not beginning to overheat as a result of so much money coming into the system. The underlying trend remains a growth rate of 1 per cent a month.

Although the movement is swash with money the Council of the Building Societies Association, when it met yesterday, was very little bit that it was premature to discuss a further cut in interest rates. The sterling float and the problems on the industrial relations front were just two of the debts expressed.

But even if these same uncertainties persist into next month, there seems little doubt that the societies will be forced to cut the interest rates if funds hold up. And net receipts in the first week of November are on a par with those of October—usually they are lower.

If an announcement to cut rates is made in December, the most likely new range will be an investment rate of 5 1/2 per cent, a mortgage rate of 8 3/4 per cent, and a bank deposit rate of 3 per cent.

Dr Owen sees 'real chance' for Rhodesia

By Hugh Noyes Parliamentary Correspondent Westminster

The threat to peace in southern Africa was made clear in the Commons yesterday when Dr Owen, the Foreign Secretary, told MPs that although there were no official plans, he estimated that Rhodesia or 60,000 people in Rhodesia to side and capable of ending the country.

With Field Marshal Lord Catter, the Resident Commissioner-designate, watching from the peers gallery, the Foreign Secretary said that reducing their numbers and providing an acceptable defence and security structure for the transitional period in which elections would be held, presented the main stumbling block to a settlement.

He said that an alternative to reaching agreement could be that the guerrilla forces might triumph, marching through the streets of Bulawayo or Salisbury with all that would mean to white and black Rhodesians who wanted a peaceful transition.

Introducing for the twelfth time the annual order renewing Rhodesian sanctions, later agreed by 77 votes to 26, Dr Owen pointed out that failure to renew this legislation would give the Smith regime an unwarranted psychological boost and also confirm suspicions among the nationalists and others about British intentions.

From the Conservative benches, Mr John Davies, the spokesman on foreign affairs, made the usual verbal gestures with talk of "barbaric insurgency" aimed at keeping the peace within his own ranks, while at the same time saying

nothing to indicate that a Tory administration would take a different line from Dr Owen in trying to reach a settlement.

As usual he advised abstention in the division at the end of the debate, not he said, because he was not sure of the merits of the case, but to avoid giving an impression which might encourage certain people in Rhodesia to delay affairs in the hope that a peace initiative came.

Dr Owen said that the renewal of his legislation was a British mission to be installed in Salisbury to make preparations for the elections.

But while accepting that the problems were formidable, Dr Owen felt that the chances of achieving majority rule were now greater than they had ever been. There was a real chance that a settlement could be reached in 1978. On the problem of the defence force, the Foreign Secretary said that this should not be based solely on either the present Rhodesian Army or on the liberation forces.

There must be a unified command structure with acceptable elements of the Rhodesian forces going into the national army. The new force should be based on the liberation forces but with recruitment open to all citizens.

Dr Owen admitted that it might be impossible to achieve this balance, but it was realistic to expect the liberation forces to give up arms, agree to a ceasefire and accept that the army should be based on the Rhodesian defence forces.

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Security guard killed in IRA car bomb attack

From Christopher Walker Belfast

A civilian security man was killed yesterday and four people were taken to hospital when a car bomb exploded in a crowded shopping street near the centre of Belfast. It was the first car bomb to explode in the city for more than four months.

The device was in a hijacked van which was parked outside the local office of a Dublin newspaper, the Irish Independent. It exploded shortly after 3.30 pm as Mr Patrick Shields, aged 32, the security guard from a public house near by, approached the vehicle. Two women and two children were taken to hospital suffering from shock.

Security forces were stoned by a hostile crowd from a neighbouring Roman Catholic district.

At about the same time another bomb exploded at a hardware store elsewhere in the city and traffic congestion was caused when three hijacked vans were parked at strategic points to arouse fears of further bombings.

A confused warning of the car bomb had been telephoned to the local Samaritans. Last night two incendiary bombs ignited in a tobacco factory, but caused little damage. A third device was found before it went off.

A last-minute attempt to persuade firemen in Northern Ireland not to join next week's strike was made by Mr George Catcart, chairman of the province's fire authority.

In an open letter, Mr Catcart referred obliquely to the danger that the IRA will take advantage of the strike, while at the same time saying

Egyptians urged to join Israel in oath of peace

Mr Begin, Israel's Prime Minister, has called on Egyptians to join Israel in a "silent oath" of peace, reminding Egyptians of the two peoples' "common father, Abraham". He quoted the Koran to show, he said, that Allah had sanctified the right of the Jews to their country. "We can help each other," he said.

War powers 'limited'

Britain would not be able to fight a conventional war beyond a certain number of days unless there was change in Nato policy, the Ministry of Defence said. Without that change the result would be nuclear conflict.

Urals disaster evidence

Migratory birds carry in their bones and muscles evidence of a nuclear disaster that occurred in the Soviet Union 20 years ago, according to Dr Medvedev, a dissenting Soviet biologist now working in London. He has examined birds flying south from the Urals and found confirmation of his theory that nuclear reactor wastes caused the disaster.

Decision on secrecy

The Prime Minister is to decide whether secrecy by individuals about code-breaking at the Government Code and Cipher School during the war is to be maintained. There has been confusion since a batch of deciphered messages became available at the Public Record Office in New.

Warning on Sahara

King Hassan of Morocco said that after two years of fighting with Polisario Front guerrillas in the Western Sahara, his country's patience was exhausted. He warned Algeria, which supports the guerrillas' struggle for self-determination, that if it wanted war it could have war.

Mr Murray warns CBI

The consequences of seeking unilateral changes in the law on industrial relations might be explosive, the CBI warned yesterday. Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, said the industrial relations Act, 1971, had imbued local disputes with national significance.

Spain at all costs

As Spain's airports went on strike for the weekend, British holiday firms were urged to action with emergency plans to get their clients there and back by alternative routes. Spaniards fought back too, 55 passengers forcing one jet to leave Madrid. It was just outside the deadline they said.

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HOME NEWS

NCB offers to alter policy over pit pay

By Paul Roush
Labour Editor

The National Coal Board is willing to shift from wholly centralized pay bargaining to permit pit productivity deals if leaders of the National Union of Mineworkers agree to the change of policy.

That is the meaning of a vaguely worded conclusion to the board's letter of response rejecting miners' demands for 90 per cent pay rises from November 1 in defiance of the TUC's 12-month rule.

It will reinforce the determination of coalfield moderates who want to circumvent the secret "pithead" bally that rejected "local" incentives last week.

The last paragraph of the board's letter, which was largely unnoticed because attention was focused on the rejection of the miners' claims, said: "We welcome the initiative taken by national officials of the union last week, and share their concern in calling for an increase in coal production in order to secure the future of the industry as envisaged in the Plan for Coal. We would be ready to discuss this."

The area executive of the Lancashire miners voted 10 to two yesterday to seek a scheme on the lines of that rejected in the pithead ballot. News of the move was given to Mr. Westwood Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, when he visited Parkside Colliery, Merseyside.

Lancashire miners' leaders thus join those of moderate areas wanting freedom to negotiate individual schemes. North Wales, South

Leicestershire, the Midlands, Nottinghamshire and Northumberland are also seeking local incentives, but the issue is to advance early December, when the NUM productivity bargaining committee will report to the national executive on the principle of pit schemes.

The productivity committee is collecting evidence about alleged "underhand" deals at eight pits in Scotland, the Lancashire, the Midlands and North Derbyshire, where local incentives are being paid, according to moderate sources.

Mr. Benn said at Parkside: "Anyone who thinks that this is a rerun of 1973-74 with Mr. Heath's completely misunderstood what is going on."

Peace plea from jail to Ulster terrorists

From a Correspondent
Belfast

An appeal to Northern Ireland terrorists to lay down their arms and talk the way out of their predicament from the notorious Maze prison at Long Kesh yesterday.

Augustus ("Gus") Spence, aged 44, the "commanding officer" of Ulster Volunteer Force prisoners in the special category compounds at the prison, made the appeal in a letter to the prisoners' "journalist" prisoners drawn up on parole at 11 am.

"Further deaths in the name of patriotism are completely unnecessary," he said. "The only true victory is the death of the abolition of war, fear, oppression and injustice. Further violence is useless and counterproductive, since the aim of the loyalists has been achieved."

There is a need for reconciliation with our neighbours, whose aspirations differ from ours. Negotiation and dialogue can fill the vacuum of violence. It will take courage and it will mean give and take on both sides, but I am confident that

An ambulance used to help to recreate a First World War field hospital at the Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps training centre, Aldershot, yesterday. The demonstration marked the founding 75 years ago of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service.

Talks about secrecy on decoding

By Peter Hennessy

The Prime Minister and the senior ministers are consulting on security and intelligence matters will decide in the next few weeks whether to impose a code of secrecy on all who are privy to most secret information about code-breaking or the government code and cipher school in the last week of the war, the first batch of wartime deciphered messages is available at the Public Record Office in Kew.

Since news of their release appeared in *The Times* last month, several individuals engaged in the work have pointed out, in our correspondence columns and elsewhere, that, in the NUM productivity bargaining committee will report to the national executive on the principle of pit schemes.

The last statement from the Government on the issue was given in a parliamentary reply by Mr. Rogers, then Minister of State for Defence, on December 13, 1974. He told the Commons that the understanding given by men and women engaged in wartime intelligence

under the Official Secrets Acts still applied. Anyone wishing to write an account of those years should consult his former department and the "secret" committee.

Mr. Callaghan, in reviewing the present position, has begun consultations with the government communications headquarters (the peacetime successor of the government code and cipher school), the secret intelligence service, security service, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Cabinet Office and the Law Officers.

The matter is being treated as an issue of broad policy with legal as well as security implications. It is most unlikely that blanket freedom to disclose will emerge from present discussions. The documents appearing at the Public Record Office are being released in a carefully controlled fashion. They cover decoded messages without any supporting material about the methods used in compiling them or the individuals involved.

Ministers are also likely to take a decision in the next few weeks on whether to publish an official history of wartime secret intelligence as presently under preparation in the Cabinet Office by a team of researchers led by Professor F.

H. Hinsley of Cambridge University. Volume one, which covers the period up to the German invasion of the Soviet Union in June, 1941, is already complete.

The second volume will be completed next year. Indications in Whitehall at present are that the study will be published subject to certain restrictions in areas of continuing sensitivity.

Ministers and intelligence officials are particularly concerned that information about techniques used in wartime code-breaking should not even now be imparted. About 10,000 people were working for the government code and cipher school at Bletchley Park, Buckinghamshire, or in its satellite organizations in the Home Counties by the end of hostilities.

The highly secret technical information of continuing concern to the government, well known and understood by only a few individuals, many of whom are now dead. Absolute secrecy about Bletchley Park and its work was maintained until the 1970s, despite the numbers involved. All were sworn to the strictest secrecy on pain of imprisonment and were instructed to consult their former organizations should any approach be made to them about their wartime work.

University pay 'anomalies' must be rectified

By Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent

The Government must rectify the "outrageous anomaly" in the pay of university lecturers and professors, Dr. Keith Hampson, a backbench Conservative spokesman on education, told the House of Commons yesterday. Dr. Hampson said that the pay of university lecturers and professors is "outrageous" and that the Government should take steps to rectify the anomaly.

An appeal for Mr. Spence's release on licence was made last month at a conference of the Northern Ireland Peace Movement.

Prison governors and social workers have testified to his work among prisoners.

Mr. Spence, who recently emphasized that Irishmen of both religions have enough in common to unite, has become a competent Gaelic speaker and has taught the Irish language to more than a hundred prisoners.

He has been refused release on parole to attend the wedding of his second daughter, Sandra, aged 20.

The Government decided in 1975 that university teachers would have a 20 per cent pay increase. But their pay has not increased because of a dispute over the policy, and the teachers received only 4 per cent.

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Bequest of 'no smoke' pub declined

By Alan Hamilton

Mr. John Shovers, proprietor of the New Inn, a public house in West Yorkshire, displayed an uncommon streak of generosity while drawing up his will. He decided to leave his popular and profitable public house in the Yorkshire town of Thirsk to the Royal National Life-Boat Institution.

After two years' careful consideration, Mr. Shovers has decided that it does not want to own a public house, on the grounds that, while it is highly competent at saving lives at sea, its knowledge of the licensed trade is limited. Mr. Shovers is deeply disappointed at the decision.

The public house, which was built in 1850, is situated almost as far from the sea as it is possible to get in the north of England, to the northeast of London. Mr. Shovers, who considers himself as being in the business of saving lives, being a former anti-smoking campaigner and having six years ago turned the New Inn into a "no-smoking" public house in the world.

"I have only one ashtray in my hotel, and it has a coffin on it," he said yesterday. He has not smoked since he was 18, but he became an anti-smoking evangelist when a close friend died of cancer. He says he has a secret anti-smoking recipe, and once cured a Willis tobacco salesman of the habit.

Mr. Shovers, who is aged 73 and a bachelor, says he has been offered £50,000 cash for his inn, but will not sell until he dies or finds a buyer he can trust to maintain the no-smoking rule.

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PARLIAMENT, November 11, 1977

Foreign Secretary sees chance of Rhodesian problem being resolved in course of next year

House of Commons

There was a real chance that the Rhodesian issue would be resolved during the course of next year, Mr. David Owen, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said when opening a debate on Rhodesia. He moved that the Southern Rhodesia Act (1965) (Commons) be approved. Dr. Owen said the main reason for renewing the order was to maintain international pressure on the Rhodesians to give up the basis of the White Paper published on September 1. He urged the House to try and look at the Rhodesian situation as we see it, not just as a snapshot of events of the last few days or months, but over the last 12 years.

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WEST EUROPE

Passengers force jet to fly from Madrid

From William Chislett
Madrid, Nov 11

All Spain's 38 airports were at a standstill today when 13,000 ground staff started a projected three-day strike. Tens of thousands of tourists and business people were stranded and arrangements were made to try to get them home by other means.

strike, which will last until Monday, affects more than 1,000 regular and 500 charter flights a day.

From 8 am the airports bore the air of ghost towns as the strike started over pay. The staff want a minimum take-home pay of the equivalent of £200 a month and the rise of £70 a month backdated to the spring. This is rejected by the Government as it contravenes the 22 per cent wage ceiling agreed between all parties last month.

Along still sunny coastlines, tourists were offered alternative routes home. More than 650 British tourists were due to fly out of Alicante today to Bradford, Newcastle, Luton, Manchester and Glasgow.

Thomson Holidays said on coaches to take them to Perpignan, in southern France, a 12-hour journey, for flights home. Tourists coming to Spain were also going by way of France and then by air into Spain. Tourists on the Costa del Sol were taken across the Strait of Gibraltar to Tangiers where they caught flights.

Over the weekend, the 1,000 delegates attending the annual meeting of the International Air Transport Association in Madrid will be flown out from a military airbase.

Fifty-five passengers at Madrid's Barajas airport last night took over an airliner when Iberia said that the flight to Barcelona due just after midnight would be cancelled. Passengers, including two members of the Cortes (Parliament) and the father of a two-year-old boy suffering from leukaemia, boarded the aircraft in protest, arguing that the strike was not then in force.

Police tried to evict them and eventually Iberia agreed to let the flight continue. The two MPs, a socialist and a member of the ruling democratic Centre Union, intended to draw attention to the ease with which they boarded the aircraft.

A DC10 from Puerto Rico, which could not land at Lisbon because of bad weather, touched down in Madrid shortly after the strike started. Ground staff, claiming the plane had infringed an international agreement, threatened to block access to the airport if there was a similar incident. The pilot said he landed because he had no choice.

The Government seems determined not to give in. The signatures are hardly dry on the economic pact agreed with the opposition.

Our Labour Staff writes: British Airways have cancelled all flights to and from Spain until Monday morning and will meet the extra costs falling on the 500 passengers involved. About 100,000 people were due to go out to Spain during this weekend, the spokesman said. They were being offered the choice of cancellation with full refund, a deduction for the shorter holiday, or a different holiday.

Thomson Holidays cancelled all departures to Madrid or Mallorca for three-day holidays but not for those who had booked holidays of seven nights or more in Mallorca or Tenerife. These people should contact the company this morning, a spokesman said.

Passengers for all other destinations, including Spain, should go to their departure airport at normal time.

Mr David Stafford, operations director of Cosmos Travel, said the public was getting fed up with strikes of this sort. Spain relied heavily on tourism and the Spanish Government should do something about it.

He said about 4,000 of their clients were affected by the strike. They were hoping to divert as much traffic as possible to other airports and then provide road transport.

There was better news about cross-Channel ferries when a strike by seamen of Townsend Thoresen, due to start yesterday morning did not occur. The union was against the strike but some men had agreed to work on an unofficial action from 4 am.

After impromptu dockside talks, the various ships set sail on time.

From Peter Nichols
Rome, Nov 11

Despite a cool welcome from the Communists, Signor Ugo La Malfa, the Republican leader, has reiterated his proposal for bringing the Communist Party closer to governmental responsibility.

Signor La Malfa's initiative is the first to open the prospect of a change in the political situation since the system of indirect Communist support of the Government was inaugurated after last year's general election. That system means that a minority Christian Democratic administration owes its parliamentary existence to the abstention of five other parties, of which the Communists are the biggest.

His suggestion now is that, instead of abstaining, the Communists should give more authority to this Government (or a new one) and take more responsibility themselves by voting in favour of its legislation.

The principal argument, which he has put forward in a series of articles and in private conversation, is that Italy's economic crisis is of such gra-



Vatican visit: Queen Margrethe of Denmark was received by the Pope yesterday and exchanged gifts with him, but her husband Prince Henrik, who converted from Roman Catholicism when he married her, was not present at the short private audience. A former French diplomat who became a Lutheran and assumed Danish citizenship on marriage, he waited outside the Pope's library. Normally people who renounce Roman Catholicism cannot be received by the Pope, but Prince Henrik met him earlier at a public ceremony. Vatican sources pointed out that when Queen Elizabeth was received privately by Pope John XXIII, the Duke of Edinburgh was present.

French mark Armistice Day with solemn commemoration of all war dead

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, Nov 11

Armistice Day was celebrated with particular solemnity this year in Paris and in the provinces. In accordance with the express wish of President Giscard d'Estaing, it has become a kind of French Remembrance Day, the commemoration of the dead of all wars, and not merely of the First World War, as hitherto.

This presidential decision, when it was announced last year, did not go altogether unchallenged. Some ex-servicemen's associations still maintain their demand for separate celebrations of the great conflicts in which France was involved, but the public at large seems to like the idea.

Large crowds were on hand this morning along the Champs Elysees for the traditional wreath laying ceremony at the Arc de Triomphe.

Earlier, the President had attended a solemn High Mass at Notre Dame, along with all the members of the Govern-

ment, and other leading officials.

The Mass was disturbed by a group of five young demonstrators claiming to belong to the "Association of French Doctors for the respect of life", who, during the sermon, began to shout "Giscard Assassin". They threw leaflets at members of the Government protesting against the abortion law which, they said, had already claimed 150,000 lives. They were rapidly ejected by security men.

At the Arc de Triomphe, where a huge tricolour flag flanked over the grave of the Unknown Soldier, the President reviewed detachments of troops from all three services, and in another row departed, walked at a slow pace for the last hundred yards to the tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

This afternoon, M. Barre, the Prime Minister, laid a wreath in the clearing of Reethondes, in the forest of Compiègne, on the monument to Alsace Lorraine, near the railway carriage where the armistice was signed by Marshal Foch and the German representatives.

He laid a wreath on the grave then shook hands with each one of the ex-servicemen's representatives on parade, some

of them widowed veterans of the First World War.

He had a word of greeting for each, and as he shook hands with them a band played the "Marseillaise", written during the German occupation of France, this symbolically linked both world wars, and the underground struggle of the Resistance with that of the regular forces, in one and the same official homage.

M. Giscard d'Estaing then decorated with the Legion of Honour 10 veterans of all the conflicts in which France has taken part since 1914.

At 11.15, the time at which the armistice became effective, all the bells of Paris churches rang out as they had done 59 years ago.

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Kidnap appeal by son-in-law of millionaire

Vienna, Nov 11.—The son-in-law of a millionaire, Michael Palmer, the Austrian millionaire, businessman kidnapped two days ago, tonight appealed for his abduction to make contact with the family, saying they were ready to pay a ransom for his release.

In an interview with Austrian radio, Herr Manfred Wilhelm said the family had not been able to contact the kidnappers since the last 500 schillings (£13.80) ransom demand by the kidnappers. "But we think we have enough to get on with the process of negotiating with the kidnappers," he said.

Herr Palmer, who is 74, is the head of a family-run lingerie concern which controls several hundred shops throughout Austria and employs more than 1,500 people. The kidnappers left a note in his car demanding that the ransom be paid in French, Swiss, Austrian and West German banknotes by tomorrow.—Reuters.

Dispossessed farmers put their case to Mr Jenkins

From Jose Sherriff
Lisbon, Nov 11

One who arrived in Lisbon last night, Mr Roy Jenkins, President of the European Commission, was handed a document outlining the plight of farmers of six nationalities who have been dispossessed of their land, occupied, or have been dispossessed in some other way, without receiving any compensation.

The document was delivered by Mr Patrick Wardle, the first Irish farmer to be dispossessed after the 1974 revolution, on behalf of the Association of Foreign Farmers and Smallholders in Portugal.

Mr Jenkins is on a study visit in connection with Portugal's application to join the EEC. The document accused the Portuguese Government of delaying tactics and of not setting up a legal framework for compensation.

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OVERSEAS

Mr Begin calls on Egyptians to join Israelis in peace oath as Lebanon border fight reopens

From Moshe Brilliant
Tel Aviv, Nov 11

Mr Begin, the Prime Minister of Israel, today appealed to Egyptians to join Israelis in a silent oath of "no more wars, no more bloodshed and no more threats".

In a statement in English recorded for the Arabic programmes of Israel radio and television beamed to neighbouring countries, Mr Begin said: "We call on the Egyptian people to join us in a silent oath of 'no more wars, no more bloodshed and no more threats'."

Mr Begin spoke 48 hours after an offer by President Sadat, of Egypt, to come to Jerusalem to negotiate a settlement.

He said it would be a pleasure to receive President Sadat. Reminding Arabs of their common ancestry, he said the President would be received with the traditional hospitality which we have inherited from our common father, Abraham.

He also reminded the Egyptians he had offered earlier to go to Cairo to talk peace with them. He said that his appeal was not being made out of weakness.

"We stretch out our hand to you," he said. "It is not, as you know, a weak hand." Four Arab attempts to destroy the Temple Mount in Jerusalem had been futile. "So it will be in the future," he said.

Mr Begin described as "tragic and completely unnecessary" the wars which he said started when King Farouk of Egypt invaded Israel in 1948.

He said the wars were the result of the "newly-restored" freedom and independence of the Egyptians, their sacrifices in lives, development and economic and social advancement had been in vain.

"It was we who liberated the country from British rule," he added. Israeli independence had been established for generations.

He closed with a quotation from the Koran which he said, sanctified the Jews' right to the country. "Recall when Moses said to his people: 'O my people, remember the goodness of Allah towards you when he appointed prophets amongst you... O my people, after the Holy Land which Allah hath written down as yours'."

The tense quiet of the Lebanon frontier since the Israeli air attack on Wednesday ended this morning, however. The Israelis reported that 10 Katyusha rockets were fired at intervals of one to two minutes in the direction of the Yiron village.

Israeli artillery responded after the first shell exploded and the bombardment against the source of the fire was sustained for some time.

Members of the settlement left the fields and orchards and joined the women and children in bomb shelters for an hour and then returned to their work.

Tel Aviv: Israel Air Force aircraft attacked an anti-aircraft missile battery inside southern Lebanon after being fired on during a reconnaissance patrol more than 15 miles inside Lebanon, the military command announced here.

A spokesman said two aircraft were shot down on the reconnaissance mission after rockets were fired at Yaron.

Spokesmen for the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine said Israel jets had pounded the Palestinian refugee camp at Rashtiyeh, south of Tyre. Preliminary reports had indicated that damage and injuries could be heavy.

Later, officials of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine said the jets had not attacked Rashtiyeh itself, but targeted immediately to the south of the camp. "Our anti-aircraft forces shot down one plane," a spokesman added.

Our Washington Correspondent writes: Mr Cyrus Vance, the Secretary of State, has followed President Carter's latest call for an early Middle East peace conference with an appeal to likely participants not to let procedural difficulties stand in their way.

"It would be a tragedy if remaining differences over procedure were to thwart the opportunity now presented," he told the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Conventions in Dallas last night.

We believe that there is a chance for the first real chance in some time, that the processes leading towards lasting peace have been set in motion," he said.

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Saturday Review

The complete housekeeper

by Sarah Freeman

Isabella Beeton's avowed reason for writing her *Book of Household Management* was given in the Preface:

What moved me, in the first instance, to attempt a work like this, was the discomfort and suffering I had seen brought upon men and women by household mismanagement. I have always thought that there is no more fruitful source of family discontent than a housewife's badly-cooked dinners and untidy ways. Men are now so well served out of doors—at their clubs, well-ordered taverns, and dining houses, that in order to compete with the attractions of these places, a mistress must be thoroughly conversant with the theory and practice of cookery, as well as perfectly conversant with all the other arts of making and keeping a comfortable home.

It was her inclusion of all the other arts which most obviously distinguished her work from that of her rivals, for in spite of the excellence of Soyer and Acton's cookery books, neither they nor any other recent publication covered domestic management as a whole, whereas she dealt in the greatest detail with both house-keeping and the personal requirements of a lady; and the rapid enlargement of the middle classes and their exaggerated love of domesticity meant that by the middle of the century such instruction was sorely needed. There were countless women whose husbands had made good, who suddenly found themselves pitched into the position of ladies without any idea of how to live up to their new status; and, on the other hand, there was a veritable army of Boarding-school Misses, who were in the same position vis-à-vis housekeeping as Isabella when she got married.



Five sixths of the book was devoted to the cookery section, which consisted of forty chapters of recipes and background information arranged alternately, each group of recipes being preceded by an introductory chapter about the type of food in question and the general principles to be observed in preparing it. Every kind of cookery suitable for an ordinary home was covered, from soup to wine-making. Isabella took the food in the order it was eaten at dinner, the most important meal, followed by dishes required at subsidiary meals, and ending with menus or bills of fare. Within this plan, she subdivided the main dinner courses into their basic ingredients, i.e. the kind of meat, poultry, game, and vegetables, and then, under each, she subdivided the main dinner courses into their basic ingredients, i.e. the kind of meat, poultry, game, and vegetables, and then, under each, she subdivided the main dinner courses into their basic ingredients, i.e. the kind of meat, poultry, game, and vegetables.

It was her system of writing recipes, apparently inspired by Eliza Acton's summaries, which was the most remarkable factor about this part of the book. Previous writers had given only the method of preparation; she appended a list with the months when the dish was seasonable, its cooking time, the number of people it served, and its average cost at the bottom of her instructions, and began every recipe by itemizing all the ingredients, with precise weights and measures, so that the cook could check that she had everything she needed in the correct quantities before proceeding. In this way, she eliminated any possibility of uncertainty and transformed domestic cookery from a skill which had to be learnt by experience into an accomplishment which could be practised with reasonable chances of success even by complete beginners. The importance of this can scarcely be overestimated, as this pattern have been written out this pattern ever since.

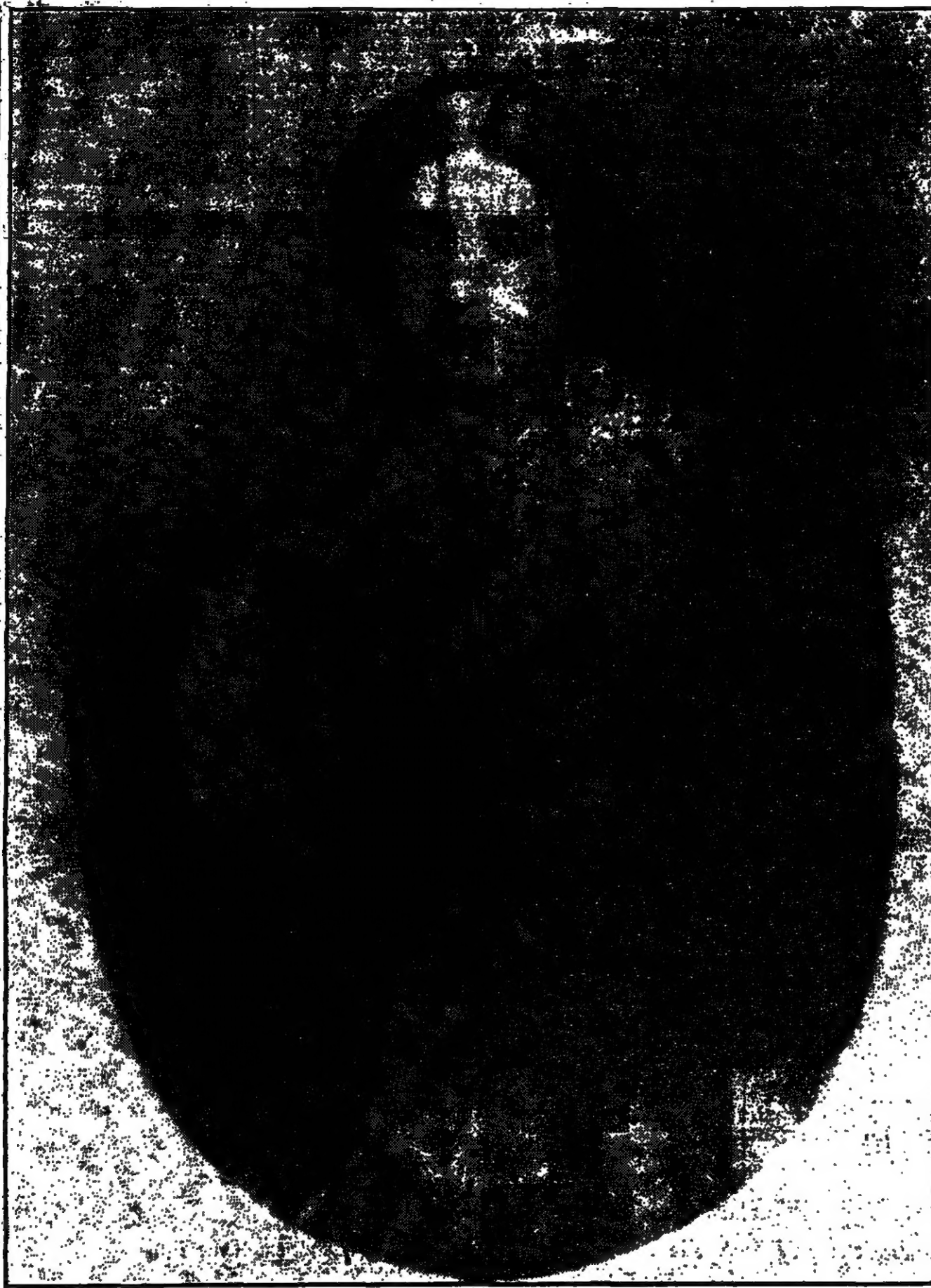
The most notable overall feature about the recipes themselves was that, contrary to general belief, all of them were classically simple. Isabella never for a moment allowed herself to include preparations demanding any kind of specialist skill, but she simply defeating her purpose. In this respect, her

inexperience was the greatest asset she could have had, for she was able to use her own limitations as a measure; anything she herself could not manage she threw out. Thus she excluded the French dishes described in the *Regenerateur* and *Modern Cook*, which called for several stages of preparation, extravagant sauces and elaborate garnishes, and included the traditional English roasts and baked and boiled puddings, which required attention but no expertise (and which, on the evidence of her diary, she herself preferred). Virtually the only exacting recipe to be found in the whole of *Management* was Udder's turtle soup, which she included because of its special status as a festive dish. For the rest, though there was plenty of chopping and straining for the maid, there was nothing to tax anyone's ability. And this, rather than any gastronomic superiority, was the reason for the popularity of her recipes; some of them were pretty dull, but even the duller dishes properly made were better than foreign delicacies hopelessly bungled.

The third distinguishing factor about the cookery chapters was, predictably enough, her emphasis on economy. Right at the beginning of the book, directly after her comments on cleanliness, she said: "Frugality and economy are home virtues, without which no household can prosper." She supported this in a variety of ways. Some of her recipes were about as cheap as was consistent with edibility—if soup made of stale crusts or eggless and fatless suet pudding can be so classified. Her family menus were plain in the extreme, and ingeniously devised to use up the previous day's left-overs. Miscellaneous hints on economy were scattered throughout the text wherever relevant; some, such as branding an egg into a separate bowl to prevent a bad one from contaminating other ingredients, have become a traditional part of kitchen lore. Many are still as valid as ever, such as a note about buying meat: "If the housekeeper is not very particular as to the precise joints to cook for dinner, there is oftentimes an opportunity for her to save as much money in her purchases of meat as will pay for the bread to eat with it." This was because the best cuts of meat were always in demand, and butchers were often glad to dispose of the cheaper cuts for whatever they could get. Soyer also deplored the English housewife's tendency to buy expensive joints: "Everybody has the bad habit of running only upon a few joints, and considering the best ten of the prime are in daily use to one of the other, and principally for a want of the knowledge of cookery." Isabella's least worthy notion for making the pennies stretch was her suggestion of serving children suet pudding roasted under the joint before the actual meat, so that they would eat less (a practice frequently resorted to in boarding schools). Most of the cheaper cuts recommended for children were dreary, partly because of the need for economy in large families, and partly because plain food was considered morally and physically better for them. It is Isabella more than anyone who deserves the blame for the tyranny of nursery rice pudding.



Her most constructive idea for promoting economy, however, was her policy of giving recipes for all kinds of ready-cooked meat, poultry, and fish. The overriding popularity of these recipes was constantly clogged with the unattractive remains of joints, which for lack of other suggestions were usually served cold just as they were, or (worse) reheated for as they were. This presented a problem which Acton, Soyer, and Francatelli recognized but did not tackle systematically. Isabella faced it squarely and gave scores of recipes under a special heading, "Cold Meat Cookery", which was also the title of one of her most popular series of articles in the *EDM*.



Since almost none of these recipes appeared in other cookery books, it is to be assumed that the magazine readers served her better in this respect than most, and contributed the bulk of them. They were not imaginative by present-day standards, but they were genuinely economical, in that few called for much by way of extras, and to contemporary readers they represented a major culinary breakthrough.

But she did not allow herself to be too carried away by her enthusiasm; she was very well aware that on occasion other considerations were bound to prevail, and that luxury, or at least the appearance of it, was of paramount importance to middle-class hostesses anxious to impress. Economy and frugality must never, however, be allowed to degenerate into parsimony and meanness, she said as a hasty afterthought to her introductory observations on economy. Her principle was that everything should be the best of its kind: if stale crusts were what was required, well and good, and if she specified stale ones, it was because they served that particular purpose better than fresh ones; but it would have been parsimonious to use second-best steak for a beef-steak pie, or begrudge the quarter pint of brandy and seven eggs needed for "An Unrivalled Plum Pudding" (from experiments made with a number of her recipes, it would seem that the usual size of eggs was very small). It is for such recipes as these, and her guest menus, which will be discussed presently, that she has gained a very misleading reputation for extravagance.

Few cookery books maintain an even gastronomic standard throughout, and even *Household Management*, within the strict limitations Isabella set herself, varied from chapter to chapter. The soup, fish and sauce chapters were among the best and most comprehensive in the book, and indeed for the plain types of dishes have probably never been bettered. There were nearly 200 soups,

almost 200 sauces, and 128 fish recipes. Isabella echoed Mrs. English's belief in the importance of the stockpot in her chapter on soup-making: "It is on good stock, or first broth and sauce, that excellence in cookery depends." She did not, however, stress it (as Soyer did) in relation to her sauce recipes, which, remembering that this was the heyday of extravagant and complicated sauces, were particularly distinguished for their simplicity. The fish chapters were notable for the number of eel, lobster, and oyster dishes—which were not an extravagance in those days as lobsters and oysters were relatively cheap: a dozen oysters cost about sevenpence.

Nowadays, the meat chapters strike one as unrealistic because of the large size of joints recommended, which is partly explained by the fact that they were expected to feed a family for several days (hence the excess of cold meat). The proponderance of roasts also makes them look dull.

Roast beef has long been a national dish in England. In most of our patriotic songs it is contrasted with "fricasseed frogs", popularly supposed to be the exclusive diet of Frenchmen. The roast beef of Old England, and the old English roast beef. This national chorus is appealed to whenever a songwriter wishes to account for the valour displayed by Englishmen at sea or on land. The other national passion, port, was reflected by the number of recipes calling for it where we should now use red wine: garlic was of course consistently omitted, except once, in a chutney. Even Soyer used it only on the sly. "I often introduce onions, eachalou, or even a little garlic in some of my most delicate dishes, but so well blended with other flavours that I never have a single objection run by those who have a great dislike to it." In contrast to the recipes for meat, the chapter on vegetables



was unexpectedly imaginative, though perhaps not more so than Eliza Acton or Soyer's. According to the latter (again), most people in England are nothing but plain boiled vegetables—surprisingly, under rather than over cooked—and all three writers endeavoured to encourage more variety and care in their preparation.

lands were considered indigestible. The exact nature of their nutritive value was not understood; although their anti-scorbutic properties were well known, it was another half century before vitamins were discovered.

In an age of cans and packets, Mrs. Beeton's puddings come as a revelation. There were of course numerous sweet-based puddings, whose popularity, despite a decade of stiff competition from jellies, remained unchallenged; no dinner party was complete without at least one, and even on a picnic a cold plum pudding would be taken along so as not to disappoint devotees. But in addition she offered a mouth-watering welter of creams, ice-creams, water ices, custards, fruit compotes, Charlotte, plects, tarts, and numerous other pastries. The pastry recipes, which ranged from the richest, butteriest puff paste to the cheapest kind of dripping crust, were as inflexible as any pastry recipe can be (here I speak from experience, having tried them all).

The section on jams and preserves was also excellent, and extensive, as it had to be when there was no other way (except, again, by drying) of preserving fruit. The process of jamming was known, but not yet in general use. Also, the brought products were notoriously inferior; according to an almost libellous article in *The Times*, confectioners were in the habit of using all their fruit for making jellies, and boiled up jam simply as a convenient way of getting rid of the pips and skin.

For the rest, the egg and cheese recipes were limited, clearly because Isabella was not interested; cheese she strongly disapproved of, as will be seen later, though presumably she did not actually dislike it since she and Sam had it several times when they went on picnics in Ireland. She permitted it a place on the hunch table, and occasionally recommended it for family dinners, but banished it firmly from all

dinner parties, mercilessly leaving the gentlemen without the natural partner to their port. The chapter on drinks contained everything that could be made at home, from a version of instant coffee to punch—but neither here nor elsewhere was there so much as a sentence about wine, which Isabella, who was no ignorant as any woman on the subject, did not consider a lady's concern. This was a pity, for if she had brote through the traditional, illogical, and gastronomically very undesirable separation of food from drink, it might not have persisted so rigidly. The invalid food was distinguished chiefly for the sensible comments which preceded it:

For invalids, never make a large quantity of one thing, as they seldom require much at a time; and it is desirable that variety be provided for them. Always have something in readiness: a little beef tea, nicely made and nicely skimmed, a few spoonfuls of jelly, etc. etc. etc. It may be administered as soon almost as the invalid wishes for it. If obliged to wait a long time, the patient loses the desire to eat, and often turns against the food when brought to him or her.

In sending dishes or preparations up to invalids, let everything look as tempting as possible.

By far the most fascinating of all the recipe chapters was the last, "Bills of Fare", which gave menus for all occasions throughout the year. For every month there was one dinner-party menu for 12, 10, 8, 6, 4, 2, and 1 guest, and two or four menus for six people. There was also a fortnight's worth of family dinners—presumably on the assumption that for the second half of the month the mistress could begin serving the same dishes again. In addition there were two menus for ball suppers, the larger being the one also recommended for weddings; one for a game dinner; another for a picnic; and suggestions for the other meals of the day.

The dinner-party menus are astounding for the immense amount of food considered necessary. Modern guests would be disgusted; Isabella herself was depressed by the superfluity. The fare for 12 in May, to take a random example, was as follows. First course: asparagus soup, oxtail soup, boiled lobster with lobster sauce, broil with shrimp sauce, fried sole, and Fillets of mackerel. Second course: (light, usually picturesque dishes served as appetizers to the second course): lamb cutlets with cummer, ragout of veal, corned chicken, and lobster pudding. Second course: saddle of lamb, raised pie, braised ham, roast veal, roast chicken, and boiled capon. (No vegetables were specified on this particular menu). Third course: gossings, ducklings, lobster salad, plovers' eggs (as delicacies, game and shellfish were served as part of the pudding course). College puddings, Nesselrode pudding, almond cheesecakes, tarts, Irish cream, Charlotte à la Parisienne, and two sorts of jelly. Dessert: fruit, nuts, biscuits, ices, and various sorts of confectionery, including chocolate, which were still very much a luxury. The dessert was the star for the maximum display of magnificence, when the choicest silver, china, and glass were brought out; fruit was arranged in huge, stemmed dishes called tazzes, which were often fantastically decorated with flowers, cherubs, nymphs and scenes from classical mythology—though the ones illustrated in the book, which were probably Isabella's own, were relatively plain. The dinner for 12 for that month consisted of proportionately fewer dishes, but was still extensive: two soups plus oxtail and turkey, seven meat dishes—ducklings, gossings, and seven puddings; dessert as before.

However, gargantuan as these feasts may now seem, to contemporaries they were if anything more moderate than might have been expected, for a large and sumptuous array of dishes at dinner parties was the invariable custom. Isabella, as can be imagined from her aversion to waste and extravagance, as well as from her impatience with the tedious such elaboration entailed, was pained in an embarrassing position: she could not afford to challenge the convention, but was hard pressed to rationalize her support of it. She compromised by recommending what she considered the socially acceptable minimum of food, and said, without such conviction:

The variety of dishes which furnish forth a modern dinner table does not necessarily imply anything unwholesome, or anything capricious. Food that is not well relished cannot be well digested; and the appetite of the over-worked man of business, or statesman, or of any

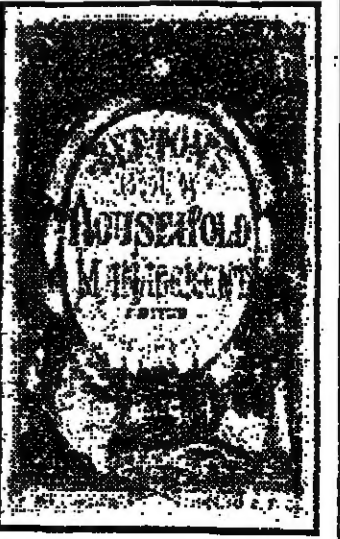
dwellers in towns, whose occupation is exciting and exhausting, is jaded, and requires stimulation.

After all this, the family dinners come as something of a shock. They were economic, unpretentious, not particularly copious, and consisted of the same type and number of dishes as we would eat today, except for the rather more generous servings of meat. Sometimes, but not always, they began with fish or soup, followed by one or two meat dishes, potatoes, and nearly every day in summer and three or four times a week in winter, a second vegetable. This was succeeded by suet or milk pudding or a pie, varied every now and again by a vegetable dish, macaroni, shellfish, fudge, or cheese. The Sunday roast was invariable (but there would not be more than one), and its re-appearance on Monday or Tuesday, either cold with mashed potatoes or as a "Cold Meat Cookery" dish, equally inevitable; for the most interesting thing about these menus was the mechanical exactitude with which Isabella manipulated them so as to avoid waste.



The liquor from boiled meat always became soup, and even half-eaten puddings were reserved cut into slices and fried. The majority of the meals were not unattractive, though they were very fattening; every now and again, however, her urge for economy became distinctly depressing, as in the two meals for January and April respectively: pea soup made from the previous day's boiled beef, cold beef and mashed potatoes (no salad), and butter pudding; and vegetable soup, road-in-the-hole with a mix of mutton, and rhubarb and custard.

From a journalistic point of view, it is virtually impossible to find fault with this part of the book: Isabella's realistic assessment of the average cook's ability, her accent on that most prized Victorian virtue, economy, the precision of her directions, and above all, her innovative system of writing recipes came near to genius. It is for cookery that she is remembered and because of it that *Household Management* began to flourish. But although her work has been so essential, it must be remembered that its distinction was purely "journalistic, not gastronomic". If her recipes seemed better than anyone else's, it was because they were easier to follow, and therefore stood a better chance of yielding good results. This is in no way to belittle the excellence or importance of what she did: it was uncalculable for in effect she formulated an independent school of middle-class British cookery, and in so doing improved enormously the general standard of cooking in this country. It was something no chef imbued with the principles of French haute cuisine could ever have done, and without Kitchenaid, one would have said that no man—as opposed to woman—could have achieved it. But Isabella did not invent it; the person who deserves the most credit for that is Miss Acton.



© Sarah Freeman, 1977. This extract is taken from *Isabella and Sam* by Sarah Freeman which has just been published this week by Victor Gollancz at £5.50.

Holidays on a sliding scale

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Why the Russians saw red over the Venice Biennale

While diplomats at the Belgrade follow-up conference are crossing the t's and dotting the i's of the Three Baskets of the Helsinki accords, most of the prominent dissidents—novelists, writers, painters, poets, musicians and film producers—of the Soviet Union and the rest of Eastern Europe are planning to descend on the Venice Biennale, Italy's principal cultural festival which opens on November 15. This year's festival, lasting more than a month, is dedicated to "cultural and political dissent in the communist world" and among the participants in seminars, discussion groups and a variety of dialogues will also be well known Western Sovietologists and specialists in East European affairs.

When the theme of the festival became known early in the year, Moscow was unexpectedly published a violent attack on the president of the Biennale, Signor Carlo Ripa di Meana, and specifically accused him of preparing a "dramatic scene for vilifying socialist countries". Several weeks later Mr Nikita Khrushchev, the Soviet Ambassador to Rome, entered the scene and asked the Italian Foreign Minister, the Ministry of Cultural Affairs and the Ministry for Entertainment (Italy perhaps being the only country with such a ministry, which controls the budget for the Biennale) to cancel the programme. "We consider the emphasis on dissent a provocation," the ambassador declared. "We have so many reasons to be friendly to Italy."

While these highly unusual visits made no immediate news, they became several days later an important incident in Italian politics, an unwelcome and difficult challenge for the arch protagonists of Eurocommunism and a publicity emergency for the ruling Christian Democratic Party, which survives only because the Communists have agreed to abstain in Parliament. The president of the Biennale decided to react by resigning; and when he did so, he recounted in a letter to the Turin paper *La Stampa* the story of Ambassador Khrushchev's visit through the Roman ministries. There was, he felt, no other way to call attention to the pressures against the Biennale on dissent.

In fact, devoting the 1977 Biennale programme to Soviet and East European dissent was Signor Ripa di Meana's own idea, and he was in no mood to become "responsible" as seen through the eyes of the Foreign Ministry. Two years ago he had presided over the 1975 Biennale which had been officially dedicated to protesting the repression in Chile. Murals by exiled Chilean artists appeared all over Venice. Radical folk-singing groups which had escaped from Chile gave concerts. One could see films made during the Allende days, listen to clandestine tapes smuggled out by French leftists and hear denunciations of the United States for its alleged support of Pinochet.

Early in 1977, it occurred to Signor Ripa di Meana that repression in Russia and Eastern Europe would be no less an appropriate theme for the Biennale. Moreover, President Carter's remarks on human rights, he said later on, added another reason for his decision to propose this theme to the governing board of the Biennale. None of the members objected or raised questions, the Communist representative included.

The intervention of the Soviet ambassador changed all that, however. Indeed, Ambassador Rykov unashamedly admitted as much when he told the Italian News Service

(ANSA) on March 5 that "we see nothing good in this act of provocation against the Soviet Union. No, we never spoke on behalf of other countries. But we have reason to believe they (the Warsaw Pact countries) would have an effecting on us, and they would certainly be compelled to withdraw from any Biennale event, along with all truly democratic countries."

It was therefore understandable when on March 7 *La Stampa* published an editorial signed by Signor Berlinguer, the Communist Party leader, in which he urged the Italian Government to prove, once and for all, its independence from Moscow. Moreover, its editor, Signor Arrigo Levi, suggested Mr Rykov should apologise for his behaviour in an internal affair or go. The Italian Government uncourageously remained silent. The Prime Minister, Signor Andreotti, knows that any offence to the party of Signor Berlinguer is likely to bring down his own feeble regime, and throw Italy into even greater chaos. The Communist, on the other hand, had, in the words of Signor Ripa di Meana, "proposed practising alternatives to prevent the Biennale discussions on dissent from taking place".

At the end of the month, the Communist Party announced that it was filled with similar derogatory comments, conveniently forgetting that they had been widely enthusiastic two years before when the Biennale was devoted to "dissent in Chile".

Yet, one might have expected some small show of independence on the part of Signor Berlinguer himself, whose rigorous indignation at speeches by Dr Henry Kissinger last year—ostensibly because they constituted foreign interference in internal affairs—now no longer seems to be so. After all the time and the impression that the Communist Party was making a fine line, or perhaps a fine line, in Parliament, it decided to vote the necessary funds for the Biennale and Signor Ripa di Meana was persuaded to withdraw his resignation.

As for Signor Ripa di Meana's own Socialist Party (PSI), of whose central committee he is a member, it is perhaps in a somewhat awkward position, out of government and trying desperately to resist the very much greater popular attraction of the Communists. Throughout the battle Signor Ripa di Meana had strong backing from Signor Bettino Craxi, the party secretary since 1975, and some of his close associates. The highlights of the Biennale are 10 seminars, including one on the historical roots of the dissident movement with Stephen Spender as chairman, and another on "Human Rights in the East and in the West" in cooperation with the Center for Strategic and International Studies of Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. There will be a special exhibition of samurai and dissident literature from the Twenties to the present, as well as music, films, plays and art which are on the proscribed list in their countries of origin.

At the Venice Biennale, Signor Ripa di Meana put it to us in Venice several days ago, "It will be the first time that the cultural and artistic dissident movement, irrespective of differences in ideology, will have an opportunity to get together to compare and exchange views on the eternal varieties in the drive for liberty, freedom and human progress."

Joseph Godson

The author, who lives in London, is European Coordinator of the Center for Strategic and International Studies of Georgetown University.



An airman's last letter to his mother

On the day before Remembrance Sunday, it is worth recalling the values—long since lost—held by the young men who fought and died in the Second World War. And no better example of the feelings of the time is expressed in this poignant letter from a young RAF pilot to his mother originally printed in *The Times* in 1945. Later, the son was reported "missing, believed killed."

Dearest Mother, Though I feel no premonitions at all, events are moving rapidly, and I have instructed that this letter be forwarded to you should I fail to return from one of the raids which we shall shortly be called upon to undertake. You must hope on for a month, but at the end of that time you must accept the fact that I have handed my task over to the extremely capable hands of my comrades of the Royal Air Force.

First, it will comfort you to know that

my role in this war has been of the greatest importance. Our patrols over the North Sea have helped to keep the trade routes clear for our convoys... I shall have done my duty to the utmost of my ability. No man can do more, and no one calling himself a man can do less.

I have always admired you, amazing courage in the face of continual setbacks; in the way you have given me as good an education and background as anyone in the country, and always kept up appearance without losing faith in the future.

My death would not mean that your struggle has been in vain. Far from it. It means that your sacrifice is as great as mine. Those who serve England must expect nothing from her.

History records with illustrious names who have given all, yet their sacrifice has resulted in the British Empire, where there is a measure of peace, justice and freedom for all, and where a higher standard of civilization

has evolved, and is still evolving, than anywhere else.

But this is not only concerning our own land. Today we are faced with the greatest organized challenge to Christianity and civilization that the world has ever seen, and I count myself lucky to be the right age and fully trained to throw my full weight into the scale. For this I have to thank you.

For all that can be said against it, I still maintain that the war is a very good thing: every individual is having the chance to give and dare all for his principle, like the martyrs of old.

However long the time may be, one thing can never be altered—I shall have lived and died an Englishman. Nothing else matters one jot nor can anything ever change it.

You must not grieve for me, for if you really believe in religion and all that it entails that would be hypocrisy.

I have no fear of death, only a queer elation... I would have it no other way. The universe is so vast and so ageless that the life of one man can only be justified by the measure of his sacrifice.

I firmly and absolutely believe that evil things are sent into the world to try us; they are sent deliberately by our Creator to test our metal because He knows what is good for us.

I count myself fortunate in that I have seen the whole country and known men of every calling. But with the final test of war I consider my character fully developed.

Thus at my early age my earthly mission is already fulfilled, and I am prepared to die with just one regret and one only—that I could not devote myself to making your declining years more happy by my presence; but you will live in peace and freedom and I shall have directly contributed to that. So here again my life will not have been in vain.

Your loving son,

The royal go-between moves out of the shadows

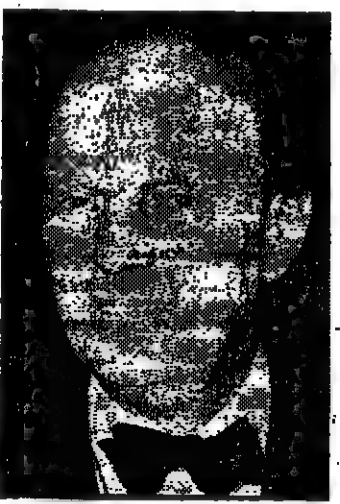
Sir Martin Charteris resists today from one of the most discreet, hemmed, and influential posts in the United Kingdom: that of Private Secretary to the Queen and Keeper of Her Majesty's Archives. The Private Secretary stands in the shadows outside the bright light that befalls upon the Throne. His face is not familiar to the public. But behind the scenes he is the eyes and ears and mouth of the monarch, her principal adviser, confidant, and go-between.

The position has been looked upon with suspicion. When the Prince Regent was trying to appoint one of the first Private Secretaries known to the constitution, a member of Parliament declared that the office was "dangerous and unbecomingly national, rendering the person holding it the secret adviser of the sovereign, with a degree of influence over his mind totally at variance with the far from forward-looking and patriotic of quiet men of scrupulous impartiality and constitutional propriety have dispelled such jealousies of a post that is

essential to the dignified part of the machinery of government.

Sir Martin has lived up to the high standards of his unobtrusive but distinguished predecessor. The principal changes during his term of office have been a greater openness by the Palace to publicity (as exemplified by the Royal Family television film), and a greater informality (as exemplified in "walkabouts" and chattering speeches). Sir Martin has written most of the Queen's speeches for many years, and is as well as a devoted and loyal verbal minefield. One of the pleasures of royal speeches for commentators is to observe Sir Martin laughing heartily and applauding with unbridled enthusiasm. He has made up his mind in the both the night before.

He was born in 1913, a grandson of the eleventh Earl of Eglinton. His father was killed in action when the young Martin was three. He was educated at Eton and the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, and served as an infantry officer through-



Sir Martin Charteris: engaging lack of modesty.

out the last war, coming out of it as a Lieutenant-Colonel. He married the daughter of Lord Marnock, a former Conservative Chief Whip, and Secretary of State for War in

Churchill's wartime coalition government. In 1950 the then Princess Elizabeth appointed him her Private Secretary. When she succeeded to the Throne two years later, he followed her as Assistant Private Secretary, and became Private Secretary in 1972. He is a talented sculptor, certainly the only Private Secretary ever to have done anything so outstanding as exhibit his work of art in public. He is a man of great charm, discretion, cultivation, and political sensitivity, exemplifying the essential qualities of the job.

It would be improper to write more about so constitutionally shy a bird as the Private Secretary, except to say that Sir Martin will be a hard act to follow. He has moved on to become Provost of Eton College in the New Year, a post where he will be able to exercise his talent and delight in getting on with the young. He is succeeded by his deputy, Sir Philip Moore, formerly a high-flying civil servant, Rugby international, Oxford hockey star, and county cricketer. The Private

Secretary, the inconspicuous pillar behind the Throne, is seldom noticed, but he is an important piece of the constitution, on whom the efficient operation, evolution, and perhaps in the long run even the survival of the monarchy depends.

Sir Alan Lascelles, the splendid and evergreen former Private Secretary to three monarchs, defined the job nicely: "It is not by any means beer and skittles. The Private Secretary's work, both in volume and responsibility, is continually increasing. In an office at present we compare unfavourably with our relative opposite numbers in the Civil Service, as regards man-hours per day, as regards pay, and as regards leave. We serve. I may remind you, one of the very few men in this world who never gets a holiday at all and who, unlike the rest of us, can look forward to a period of retirement at the end of his service; for his service never ends."

Philip Howard

Portrait of the artist in the light of experience

With rather more justification, if less impact, than the late President Kennedy, Peter Sedgley could claim: "Ich bin ein Berliner." Mr Sedgley is a British painter with a Goethe-like interest in colour and light who has lived in West Berlin since 1971. He went there for a year with a grant from the German Academic Exchange Service, liked it, and stayed. His current exhibition at the Redfern Gallery in Cork St., W.1, is his first in London for nine years: usually when he exhibits abroad it is as a Berlin artist.

"I like the space in Berlin, and the air—though there is a bit of pollution from the factories in East Berlin: its production at all costs over there, and pollution controls don't seem to be enforced," he says. "West Berlin works. The traffic flows, the telephone works. The people may be a bit Germanic, but they have a kind of sense of social responsibility in protecting things people use. They can be a bit authoritarian pointing out that one shouldn't park somewhere. But I like their directness. They say what they mean."

In addition to becoming a familiar feature of Berlin's cultural landscape, Sedgley has left his mark on the city itself. When it gets dark in Hermann Ehlers Platz, 16 spotlights automatically switch on and throw their red, green and blue light intermittently on to its shoulder-high white wall sections arranged as a sort of open labyrinth. Those who walk through are bathed in

colour and throw astonishing shadows, to the delight of the local children in particular. This commission, which provoked some controversy, exemplifies Sedgley's interest in painting with light. With lighting for his paintings, he noticed that a change from a tungsten lamp, with its yellowish quality, to the bluish tones of fluorescent light produced a striking change in the tone and colour values of the painting itself.

His London exhibition features works in which a beam of light passes through slowly revolving glass filters. The colour changes as the filter presents a different angle to the beam. Just as Goethe, whose writings on colour he has studied, questioned previous assumptions about the colour spectrum, so Sedgley's work raises questions even in non-scientific minds about the interaction of colour and light.

These preoccupations stem perhaps from the unconventional route which he took towards the world of art. He studied architecture, then worked as an architectural draughtsman, and led a hand-to-mouth existence doing decorating and repair work, while at the same time getting down to painting on canvas (some what under the influence of Max Ernst at first).

Then he met Bridget Riley, one of the pioneers in Britain of "optical" or "op" art, and she introduced him to the world of art and showed him what was possible. His own work began to be known, and



Peter Sedgley: a practical idealist.

during that upsurge in British confidence in the 1960s, he took part in exhibitions in many countries (like *The Responsive Eye*, in New York in 1965).

When towards the end of the decade, some of the earlier promise of better times for artists seemed to be fading, he helped, with Bridget Riley and others, to found a centre where artists could meet and work. SPACE, as it was called, started at St Katharine's Dock,

and has subsequently acquired premises for some 200 artists, mainly in London. There is also an affiliated gallery in Shaftesbury Avenue. An attempt to establish an artists' information register was less successful, and had to be abandoned.

Sedgley, who is 47, is both a practical and an idealistic man. He even once in his pre-RAF phase founded a group called Associated Technicians, consisting of some 14 tradesmen (plumbers, electricians, decorators, and so on) with the aim of influencing design and building at the grass roots level.

He was formerly a member of the wholly unimpassioned Socialist Party of Great Britain. When he went to Berlin he found he used to get heavily involved in political arguments about politics. "There is a stronger left-wing element there than in Britain among the younger generation. But I came to the conclusion that their modified communism is a form of Russian imperialism rather than aimed at a classless society."

"Ends and means are confused. Politics for me can only be justified in terms of the visionaries, the future of ourselves as human beings, trying to produce a world in which we want to live." He hopes that his paintings with light, by providing an insight of the future, project "a vision of future unencumbered by our present calamities."

Roger Berthoud

An easy way to pick the Big Apple

If the man who is tired of London is tired of life, the man who has never savoured New York hasn't really lived. One of the good things which Mr Laker's skytrain looks like achieving with his air route flight between London and New York is to make the people of the two cities feel far closer.

Before this one could hardly conceive of hopping over to New York, as people do, say, to Paris. Yet the costs are now comparable, especially when one considers that living in New York—with its fast food, its sights and shows, and its cheap drinks—seems far better value than many European cities.

The Laker trip costs £59 out and £77 to come back. A flight to Paris (distance 150 miles) costs £72 return, and Nice, that favourite resort of the English, is £167. Going farther south, a normal economy return to Rome is now up to £220.

The point about this cheap travel to New York, which seems to elude the egregious director of the high priced International Air Transport Association, is that we can at last have a good run for our money. On the Laker flight I have seen the whole country and known men of every calling. But with the final test of war I consider my character fully developed.

Thus at my early age my earthly mission is already fulfilled, and I am prepared to die with just one regret and one only—that I could not devote myself to making your declining years more happy by my presence; but you will live in peace and freedom and I shall have directly contributed to that. So here again my life will not have been in vain.

No need to wait at Gatwick all day, either. One can buy a ticket first thing in the morning and then take the train back for a day in London. And the major airlines now offer "standby" bookings to New York, seats cannot be guaranteed, particularly at weekends.

The real attraction of the new Laker service in New York is the Christmas spirit. Even the pavements shake, over the pulsing of the subway trains. Nor is life so expensive. On Sunday, evening free-pop concerts roll out in Washington Square, while scores of onlookers mill around. The other evening two fringe political groups, the "yippies" and the "moories" were distributing broadsheets, one side accusing the other of being a CIA plot.

The city has its own chronicle, and a brilliant production it is. The pages of the weekly *New York Times* are a stylishly informed and racy story of the city they celebrate.

To *New York* magazine, I am indebted for the following statistics: the last census found 7,048,867 New Yorkers of whom 4,969,369 were whites, 1,545,242 were blacks and 1,202,281 of Hispanic origin. Among the whites, 2,778,543 were foreign-born or had one or more foreign-born parents. Of the city's 24,241 families with incomes exceeding 50,000 dollars, 868 are black and 170 are Puerto Rican.

The numbers who are on or below the bread line are not given, and no one can fail to be aware that New York continually on the verge of bankruptcy, has terrible social problems, and is a city of the future being in a rather uncomfortable black maria. Instead of conversation with the driver, so beloved of raconteurs, the passenger can be seen behind a protective grille and pay his fare through a slot in the glass.

But the British visitor, escaping from power cuts and the threat of miners' strikes, may perhaps be excused from worrying about New York's avarice. It's a place to have a good time. And according to one British diplomat in a position to know, by providing an insight of the future, project "a vision of future unencumbered by our present calamities."

David Spanier

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The 'special cases', and the wreckers among us

George Hutchinson

In a newspaper advertisement rather obsequiously addressed to the Prime Minister ("Jim: please read this") the Society of Civil and Public Servants has urged that "The 1956 Royal Commission on the Civil Service said that the issue of Civil Service pay should be kept out of politics."

Perhaps, perhaps; but maybe not. There is more than one aspect.

By way of explaining its claims and the programme of half-pay stoppages designed to support them (not less in the offices of the Department of Health and Social Security), the society has this to say:

"Please give us back the Civil Service national agreement on pay as originally negotiated with the Government in 1974. When you introduced the new pay policy, our national agreement was specifically suspended. Now that things are a little better and you and the TUC have agreed that there should be a return to normal collective bargaining, we feel

that it is unfair that we should be made an example of. Under the agreement, an independent fact-finding body reviews comparable salaries with respect to pay in this system. We're not making irresponsible pay demands or asking that we be treated as a special case."

But public servants are, of course, "a special case". By the ancient actions of their leaders in the first and heady phase of the Heath administration they secured a unique privilege. They should need no reminding of an advantage unknown to all but a handful in the private sector—namely the promise of index-linked (or inflation-proof) pensions.

This was surely one of Mr Heath's most ill-considered indulgences. He would have done better to increase the salaries of public servants instead of investing them with rewards of such an extravagantly inconvertible nature—literally inconvertible.

Not all the beneficiaries are civil servants. Many are local

government officers. The two categories, along with members of other public services, embrace all kinds and conditions, ranks and levels—High Court judges, admirals, police, customs officers.

Just as they vary in status and responsibility, they vary in personal quality, value and ambition. But they are all public servants, and as such they belong to a privileged class. A class so privileged in retirement that the pension of a former officer can exceed the salary of his successor.

While we may agree that many of the more senior are very gifted, and some uncommonly distinguished, we may also agree that they are too numerous in total. This is not their own fault, but that of successive governments, especially Labour governments, and local

authorities. Mrs Thatcher promises that a Conservative government under her direction would make economies.

There is no reason to doubt her. She has the will to set in hand what she knows to be necessary. But she must also recognise that she would meet resistance—for the public services, contrary to convention, have now become militant, as we can see every day.

The firemen are in revolt. The police are in rebellious mood and treat the Home Secretary with contempt. Postal workers demand the right to strike. Hospital porters have become disaffected. Meanwhile the members of the armed forces are positively encouraged to join trade unions by the Secretary of State for Defence, Mr Mulley.

No public good can result from these attitudes of mind,

however much they may have been induced by governmental failure or ineptitude. Until the cases are removed or reduced, the public services will be in disorder. And that is what our adversaries are hoping for—the political adversaries on our side, the militaries, the Trotskyists, the various branches of anarchism who resist every dispute and any dedication.

As a nation with an old libertarian tradition we have become too indulgent, too generous, too free-wheeling. We have allowed the wreckers to infiltrate virtually every institution in the country, most dangerously, the schools and universities. Even some of the philanthropic and humanitarian societies that set us apart in the past have not escaped their attentions.

Numerically, the subversors (for that is what they are) form a tiny proportion of the population. They have no affinity with the majority—the great majority of decent, tolerant, peaceable citizens whose lives they are intent on disrupting.

That is the one source of encouragement in an otherwise melancholy development.

Like their predecessors, Mr Macmillan, Lord Home and Mr Heath, Mrs Thatcher was present at the memorial service on Thursday for Lord Ashdown, a commander to the Conservative Party, whose death has distressed them all.

The national treasures of the party are appointed by the leader. With Lord Ashdown's retirement and Lord Ashdown's death, only one remains: the young (and very able) Mr Airey MacLaine, a member of the celebrated family of builders and an important collector and patron of modern art, paintings and sculptures alike.

Mrs Thatcher will need to find a successor for him before long. It will not be easy to do so. This is a delicate role of much influence, best fulfilled by someone like Mr MacLaine who is able to combine real independence with strong loyalties. Quite a tall order.

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THE LINE HOLDS ON PAY

When the Government failed to get formal agreement from the trade union movement to a Stage Three for its incomes policy, the dominant fear was that there would be an immediate wage explosion. We are now well into the last half of the calendar year without that fear having turned into a reality. Given the depressed state of the economy and the continuing tightness of fiscal and monetary policy, a reasonable case can be made for the proposition that the fears were exaggerated. Be that as it may, the events of the past week have shown that the return towards freer collective bargaining is still subject to discipline.

The collapse of the power workers' unofficial action, the firm stand which the Government is continuing to take in the case of the firemen's wage claim and the settlement of the police pay claim within the guidelines are all indications that there is no intention of letting the public sector start the process of leapfrogging wages.

The astonishing result of the Opinion Research Centre's poll which indicated that 88 per cent of the public support the Government's strong line on wage restraint, shows that the policy is popular. As always the National Union of Mineworkers is the one rogue elephant through by rejecting an offer, including a productivity agree-

ment which many will be forgiven for thinking fell outside the terms of the Government's guidelines, the miners have for the moment at least not broken the line.

If the firemen's strike call were at all effective, it seems inevitable that whatever makeshift measures the Government may take with the Services and other resources, there would soon be a major tragedy. In such circumstances it is by no means certain how public opinion would react. There might be increased pressure on the firemen to reach a settlement within the guidelines. On the other hand, since firemen in general enjoy a large degree of public admiration, the reaction might be against the Government. Certainly there would be strong pressure on both sides to reach a quick settlement. Power cuts may be a major inconvenience, but they can be endured. The direct threat to life involved in the withdrawal of the fire service is another matter.

The strong public support for holding the line on incomes is based mainly on the experience of the wage explosion of 1974-75. There is a livelier perception of the fact that unjustified wage and salary increases, which lead to accelerating inflation and increase unemployment, are entirely self-defeating. Even the Government, however, must be surprised by the extent of the

present feeling that the sacrifices of the past two years should not now be thrown away by high wage increases.

This feeling is supported by three elements of the present economic situation. The first is that the rate of increase in prices is evidently slowing. This element will strengthen at least for the next six months. It is entirely possible that price rises in the first half of 1978 will be down to the 7-8 per cent level at an annual rate. People can see this development in their daily lives. It must be affecting their willingness to support the underlying incomes policy.

The second element is that the impact of taxation has been reduced, together with items like mortgage payments, which form such a high proportion of so many people's expenditure. And the third is that unemployment is high and unlikely to start dropping substantially until the end of next year, or 1979. Together these elements have clearly increased the willingness of the public to accept the lessons of the last wage explosion. It is more doubtful if that willingness would have been so strong, for example, if the rate of inflation were visibly accelerating, or if the burden of taxation were being increased.

The Government's hope must be that by the end of the present pay round a habit of wage restraint will have formed.

NO CEASEFIRE IN SIGHT

Dr Owen's report to Parliament on the results so far of Lord Carver's mission was not encouraging. This will surprise nobody who studied reports of the reception accorded Lord Carver and General Chaud by the principals and parties to the settlement proposed in the White Paper. All the gaps between their respective positions which were known before Lord Carver left still gape as wide as ever. Some new difficulties seem to have arisen—among these are the Patriotic Front's rejection of the large administrative powers given Lord Carver in the transition period, and the apparent objection of President Kaunda to holding elections during that period under Lord Carver's and United Nations supervision.

The key requirement of the White Paper that during the transition a start be made in creating a Zimbabwe army out of elements from both the existing security forces and the guerrillas seems unworkable. Even Dr Owen admitted the difficulty. Neither the Smith regime nor the guerrilla leaders seem within miles of a compromise which would allow for the entire security role—the whites in fear of their

lives, and the guerrillas because they regard themselves as the true leaders of all Rhodesian blacks and because, powered grows from the muzzle of the gun, Lord Carver has made no visible progress towards their meeting to discuss either this combined army or the precedent cease fire.

Dr Owen anticipates that Lord Carver will return to try again. If the leaders cannot meet in Malawi perhaps they can on Victoria Falls bridge. But for a meeting to achieve anything constructive, some basis of agreement seems essential. The Rhodesians still demand to know what the post-transition constitution is: to be before they relinquish control of their forces. Lord Carver's unified command. The Patriotic Front and their backers still talk of disbanding the Smith army and taking charge, which is almost as unacceptable to Bishop Muzorewa as to the whites.

No doubt Dr Owen is right to express hope and pursue the Anglo-American plan, which has United Nations approval, so long as there is any chance of agreement. But talks of more pressure on South Africa to put more pressure on Mr Smith is unconvincing in the atmosphere

created by the Security Council's action. And the only means of putting pressure on the Front is through the black President, who have not visibly moderated its intransigent demands so far.

The pursuit of counsels of perfection should not be projected to the point at which it is nullified. Though second best, and even so difficult to get, it has seemed the likelier possibility, and indeed the White Paper might prove its chrysalis. A bargain under which political power passed to the Bishop and his party under majority rule in return for security guaranteed by maintaining most of the existing forces (60 per cent black) is still a settlement promising peace. Dr Owen fears it might produce civil war. But there already is civil war. A black government, even if repudiated by a minority in arms (which has happened before) is still preferable to a white minority regime, universally opposed but still undefeated in the field. The White Paper seeks to transcend these alternatives but it may yet leave the parties faced with them.

ANTIQUITIES ON THE MAP

Of all the activities that the taxpayer is required to support, the Ordnance Survey is one of the few where he can console himself with the thought that his money is being spent on something first-class. Britain is probably the best surveyed and most mapped country in the world. The various series of OS maps are far more than mere aids to navigation: they record the marks that successive ages have left on the ground they inherited, and the way we mould, exploit and abuse the raw materials we stand on. The records of the OS are an indispensable tool for historians and archaeologists. But they are not commercial and never can be.

The giddy increases in the price of OS maps in recent years are one sign of constant pressure from above to take more account of profitability. The customers of the service are vigilant, perennially convinced that it is not as good as it used to be, and keenly suspicious of any evidence of corner-cutting. As our letter columns have shown, they have reacted strongly to the news that the specialised archaeological survey section is to be

disbanded and its staff redeployed on general surveying work. Instead the Survey will rely on local authority sources for news of discoveries, which are still being made in increasing numbers every year.

The manner and timing of the decision are clumsy. There was no consultation with the professional bodies most concerned. The Department of the Environment is about to undertake a study of the Survey's work as a whole, and there have inevitably been suggestions that the move has been made in a hurry to forestall it. After many years of work a major field programme to make a comprehensive archaeological record of the British Isles is only two years from completion. Assurances have been given that the programme will not be interrupted, and that the Survey's great archive will be maintained, but there are still fears that the work will not be carried on at the same high standard. Without authoritative records, the historical value of sites is reduced, and buried evidence can be unknowingly obliterated by new roads or factories.

According to the Council for

British Archaeology, there has been a good deal of duplicated effort between national and local services. But unilateral withdrawal is a haphazard way of remedying that. Some counties employ excellent archaeological survey teams, but many have standards that are not so high. All have been under pressure to reduce spending on such services, and no national coordination exists. The assertion by the Director, General of the Survey in his letter to *The Times* yesterday that "most county authorities... have agreed to co-operate" (our italics) is not reassuring.

The saving from the redeployment of about 40 staff is said to be about £100,000 a year, or rather less than a hundredth of the total running costs of the Survey. No doubt the Survey, like every other public enterprise, must bow to the need to economise. But the historical function adds relatively little to the cost of providing services of more immediate social utility. It is a matter for concern that such a small saving should be thought to warrant so serious a threat to a most valuable aspect of its work.

Wordsworth manuscript

From Lord Brooke of Cumnor and Sir. An important collection of hitherto unknown Wordsworth and Coleridge manuscripts was sold at Sotheby's in July for £38,500, and there is now the possibility of acquiring it for the nation. The reviewing committee for the export of works of art has suspended the issue of an export licence for four months to enable a British institution to match the purchase price; and the purchaser, Cornell University, has stated that it would be willing to consider an offer from the Trustees of Dove Cottage, Grasmere. The undersigned seek the hospitality of your columns for an appeal on their behalf.

The Library and Museum at Grasmere house some 85 per cent of Wordsworth's extant manuscripts, and are the centre of research into the poet and his circle. Standards of conservation are high. With generous help from the Pilgrim Trust and the North Western Museums Service, the trustees of the archive have been assisted by Douglas Cockerell of Grasmere and it would be difficult to find a manuscript collection in better condition.

The collection which we now have to save for the nation supplements to an extraordinary degree

the present holdings of the Trust. The major Coleridge manuscript represents a stage in the rapidly changing early textual history of *Dejection* that follows on from the Dove Cottage faircopy of April 4, 1802: the new manuscript of Wordsworth's *To the Cuckoo* should clearly be at Grasmere with the other lyrics poetry of the period; the correspondence between Wordsworth and Dorothy, and the fascinating letters between the poet and his wife, fit into effect are missing from the sequences at Dove Cottage; and there can be no doubt that the Wordsworth Library is the place for the archival material (walls, bills, inventories, sale catalogues, letters to lawyers and publishers) that bulks large in the collection.

The Trustees are reluctant to launch another appeal when one is already in progress for restoring and strengthening Dove Cottage and rehousing the Museum and Library, but with the sudden appearance of these new manuscripts they have no option. The matter is one of great urgency. The date of the last inventory is February 5, 1976. Substantial aid has already been promised from the Grant Fund administered by the Victoria and Albert Museum.

We appeal to all who are interested in helping to secure this highly important collection to send their contributions to the Wordsworth Heritage Appeal, Dove Cottage, Grasmere, Cumbria.

Yours etc.
BROOKE OF CUMNOR,
DAVID CECIL,
COLTSELOE (Chairman, Heritage in Danger),
KENYON (Chairman, Friends of the National Library),
C. V. WEDGWOOD,
JONATHAN WORDSWORTH (Chairman, Trustees of Dove Cottage),
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JONATHAN WORDSWORTH (Chairman, Trustees of Dove Cottage),
Dove Cottage, Grasmere, Westmorland, November 8.

From Mrs Gertrude Shilling. Sir, I agree with Mrs Gladys Browne (Letters, November 9) that a long-term look better with a date and usually wear one with the other myself, but when, like her, I have to make a speech in evening dress, I have to resort to spectacles, as I fail to see how one can turn over notes and use a long-term at the same time without growing a third hand for that specific purpose.

Yours faithfully,
GERTRUDE SHILLING,
133 Clarence Gate Gardens, Westminster, NW1.

From Mrs Gertrude Shilling. Sir, I agree with Mrs Gladys Browne (Letters, November 9) that a long-term look better with a date and usually wear one with the other myself, but when, like her, I have to make a speech in evening dress, I have to resort to spectacles, as I fail to see how one can turn over notes and use a long-term at the same time without growing a third hand for that specific purpose.

Finding an internal Rhodesian settlement

From Mr Malcolm Rifkind, MP for Penrlands (Conservative). Sir, Nicholas Ashford is right to suggest (November 10) that the British Government seek more interest in international assistance of a Rhodesian settlement than of its acceptance by the black and white communities in Rhodesia.

Over the past few months Dr Owen has failed to give any serious consideration to the prospects of an internal settlement, between Mr Smith and Bishop Muzorewa, and Mr Sibhale who clearly command widespread African support. His reasoning appears to be that such a settlement would not command the support of the front line presidents, the OAU or the UN.

So be it. Should that prevent a settlement that would be acceptable to the vast majority of black and white Rhodesians? Which of the famous five big principles requires UN, OAU or some line approval before a settlement can be concluded?

Of course it would be preferable for an agreement that was acceptable to the Nationalist leaders both inside and outside Rhodesia. It is clear, however, that such an agreement has only remote prospects of success. In its absence an internal settlement, which would command widespread support.

For one who lived and worked in Rhodesia in the sixties I am convinced that there is a far greater harmony of interest between Mr Smith and the internal Nationalist leaders than at any time since UDI.

Yours sincerely,
MALCOLM RIFKIND,
House of Commons, November 10.

Paper, Attempts by our Fund to persuade the British Government to grant a Royal Reprieve in these cases have failed. We still believe that this should be done and that the British Government should also make it clear that those responsible for carrying out such executions are criminally liable under British law.

From our evidence, it is clear that the Smith regime has embarked on a nationwide purge of supporters of the African National Council of Zimbabwe. Hundreds of officials at all levels, from Branches to the National Assembly, have been systematically arrested and detained in an attempt to cripple political activity of any kind. There are such members in Marandellas Prison alone. There is a very real danger that many outstanding members of the liberation movement, who could play a constructive role in an independent Rhodesia, may be brought to trial on capital charges in the coming months.

It is the potential for the miscarriage of justice in political trials under the Law and Order (Maintenance) Act continues to be a source of serious concern—quite apart from the constitutional illegality of the regime's courts as varied with a survey carried out by the Special Courts set up in May 1976 to try cases, including capital charges, by a tribunal of three, only one of whom is a judge. These have legal qualifications, must have abundant evidence that torture and intimidation by police and security forces are routine elements of interrogation preceding a court appearance.

Over half a million people are estimated to have been removed from their homes into fenced camps or "protected villages". These camps and villages are one aspect of the apartheid policies pursued by the regime—policies which result in untold suffering for the African people.

In this climate of continuing political repression, it is not surprising that the liberation movement should regard with the deepest suspicion proposals to retain substantial sections of the Rhodesian Army, the police, judiciary and civil service to maintain "law and order" during the transition to independence. Only when the Smith regime makes a real effort at reconciliation will there be the possibility of an agreed settlement.

Yours faithfully,
L. JOHN COLLINS, President, International Defence and Aid Fund for Southern Africa, 2 Amen Court, EC4, November 8.

Assessing the quality of hotel guides

From Sir Charles Forte. Sir, Your Consumer Affairs Correspondent, Robin Young, very pertinently points to some of the more obvious contradictions and discrepancies to be found among the compilers of hotel guides (*The Times*, November 7).

Those who are responsible for the management of hotels and restaurants and catering establishments have for many years been aware of the inconsistencies perpetrated in some guides by self appointed people who are not professional hoteliers or caterers but who make their living by selling guides. So far the industry has not openly contested these inconsistencies because it is accepted that, generally speaking, guides do have a usefulness for some of our customers. Against this, however, must be set the enormous damage to tourism and the industry done by guides which print sweeping, sometimes in political trials under the Law and Order (Maintenance) Act continues to be a source of serious concern—quite apart from the constitutional illegality of the regime's courts as varied with a survey carried out by the Special Courts set up in May 1976 to try cases, including capital charges, by a tribunal of three, only one of whom is a judge. These have legal qualifications, must have abundant evidence that torture and intimidation by police and security forces are routine elements of interrogation preceding a court appearance.

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L. JOHN COLLINS, President, International Defence and Aid Fund for Southern Africa, 2 Amen Court, EC4, November 8.

on tourism, such attacks seriously UNDERMINE THE MORALE OF MOTORWAY AREA STAFF, who provide 24-hour service in extremely difficult conditions.

Turning to the hotel sector, we marvel at the temerity of Mr Ronay in producing an annual rating list, rather like a football league table complete with percentage "points", for important hotels.

For even those who have been in the business for a long time, would, for example, dare to be responsible for deciding and stating unequivocally, as Mr Ronay has done, that one hotel is no longer a "deluxe hotel or another is a Grade 2 establishment.

Mr Ronay largely relies on his "inspectors" for such assessments and carefully explains that they are fully trained. We have noted, however, that Mr Ronay advertises in the open labour market for inspectors only a few months before his guide is published. Most of us in the industry can testify that it takes a long time to become fully trained in our business.

It is unfair that the reputations of many magnificently run establishments should be damaged by the vagaries of such speculative and haphazard systems run by commercial organisations, which can, and often do, seriously and, we believe, irretrievably mislead our guests.

Mr Ronay's sweeping reference to "astronomical" charges in London hotels compared with other capital cities is completely at variance with the facts. As our survey conducted in July of this year by the highly respected firm of Greene Bertram Smith & Company, which showed conclusively that on a sample of 190 hotels in 14 European countries, London was ninth in a list headed by Paris as the most expensive and Lisbon as the least expensive.

We suggest that Mr Ronay takes a careful look at his operation and methods of evaluation before publishing his next guide and knocking again at a service industry of enormous value to the country.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES FORTE,
Trust Houses Forte Limited,
36 Park Lane, W1, November 10.

From Canon L. John Collins. Sir, Now that Field Marshal Lord Carver has left Rhodesia, the international Defence and Aid Fund is greatly concerned that little progress has been made in his efforts to achieve a ceasefire. In our opinion, negotiations can have little meaning whilst conditions inside Rhodesia become more and more difficult. We believe that the following aspects of the situation constitute an insurmountable obstacle to realistic negotiations on a ceasefire and subsequent peace talks: the military and political organisations. We believe that the following aspects of the situation constitute an insurmountable obstacle to realistic negotiations on a ceasefire and subsequent peace talks: the military and political organisations. We believe that the following aspects of the situation constitute an insurmountable obstacle to realistic negotiations on a ceasefire and subsequent peace talks: the military and political organisations.

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Yuri Orlov's imprisonment

From Mr John Macdonald, QC. Sir, On Thursday November 10, 1977, the Moscow Post Office has received a copy of the letter from the Soviet authorities for this.

The most serious aspect of the Orlov case is that none of the 17 releases have been accepted by the Procurator in Moscow. This failure to examine the evidence for the defence during the investigation period is a gross breach of articles 70, 71 and 95 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, and makes a mockery of Soviet law. It also poses a direct challenge to the Belgrade Conference, for Orlov and his friends were seeking to do so to monitor the Helsinki Declaration.

The time has come for the British delegation to make it clear in public session at Belgrade that the Soviet Government will not receive any of the economic advantages it seeks under basket two of the Helsinki Declaration while it continues to ignore the human rights provisions. The Belgrade Conference cannot be a success if it ends with Yuri Orlov and his colleagues still in prison.

Yours faithfully,
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Lincoln's Inn, WC2,
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November 8.

Financing British films

From Mr Wolf Rilla. Sir, On behalf of all British film financiers, we share Sir John Terry's delight (November 4) about the increase of public funds for British film production.

Can we, however, now make sure that any such funds are actually so used? Eighteen months ago £23.7m was made available to the National Film Finance Corporation. Up to March of this year only £178,000 was invested in film production. The rest was used for NFCC overheads and interest payments. After a further interest payment of a quarter of a million, Sir John Terry announced in August that no more funds were available until March of next year. It seems that the right hand gave, the left hand took away!

A deputation from this union saw the Minister responsible and successfully pleaded with him at least to postpone this year's interest payments. An immediate £240,000 has therefore become available to the NFCC as a down in the ocean, maybe.

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Knowing the Middle East

From Mr Ian M. Torrance. Sir, With today's issue (November 8), you have included a special report on insurance in the Arab world: on the first page, there appears an advertisement for Nasco Insurance Brokers Ltd, containing a purported map of western Asia and surrounding countries.

The cartographic principles upon which this map has been constructed seem to be the somewhat eccentric. Apart from the depiction of "Syria Lebanon", the map shows the eastern Mediterranean littoral as being shared between "Syria Lebanon", Jordan and Egypt. In my ignorance, I had thought that Jordan was a virtually landlocked state, having only a small share of the Gulf of Aqaba, and I am interested to discover that it has recently acquired seaward access to the sea.

Your advertisers—to whom I am sending a copy of this letter—make the claim that "Nasco knows the Middle East". It would appear

that there is at least one significant part of the Middle East that Nasco does not know, and I should like to suggest that the company consider changing its name to Nesco.

Yours faithfully,
IAN M. TORRANCE,
501 Randolph Avenue, W9,
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COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
November 11: The Queen this morning visited the Royal College of Defence Studies, Whitehall, to mark the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the College.

Her Majesty was received upon arrival by the Commandant (Admiral Sir Ian Easton) and the Secretary (Brigadier T. I. G. Gray).

The Lady Susan Hussey, Mr. William Hesling, Mr. Vice-Marshal Brian Langley, Lieutenant Robert Guy, RN, were in attendance.

Lieutenant-Colonel the Right Hon. Sir Alan Carter, who had an audience of the Queen this afternoon and took leave upon relinquishing his appointment as Private Secretary to Her Majesty and Keeper of the Queen's Archives.

Sir Frederick Ashton had the honour of being received by the Queen when she visited him with the insignia of a Member of the Order of Merit.

The Lord and Lady of the Manor of the Queen when Her Majesty visited him with the insignia of a Member of the Order of Merit.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Chancellor of the University of Cambridge, arrived at the Royal College of Defence Studies this morning and was received by the Vice-Chancellor (Sir Alan Carter) and the Director of the Institute (Dr G. de O. Robin).

After a tour of the Institute, His Royal Highness visited the University Library (Urban Hall, R. M. Cade) and, having been received by the Master of Corpus Christi College (Sir Alan Carter), was entertained at luncheon in the College.

This afternoon, the Duke of Edinburgh and the Duchess, who were in London for the Royal Wedding, were received by the Master (Mr R. O. Marshall).

The Duke of Edinburgh, who attended a Concert and was present at dinner with the Master and the Duchess, was accompanied by the Duchess and the Duchess's daughter, Lady Mary, who was also present.

Lieutenant-Colonel the Hon. Michael Allenby today had the honour of being received by the Queen when she visited him with the insignia of a Member of the Order of Merit.

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The ministry of the laity's vital role in the church

Long gone are the days, when Goldsmith could write of the village parson.

A man he was to all the country dear, And passing rich on forty pounds a year.

In fact, the benefactions of the parsonage, which make up the Church Commissioners' income, are very far from adequate to pay the increasing stipends of even a diminishing number of clergy. Every churchgoer, it is true, knows that a parish, if it is to retain its separate identity with its own incumbent, must add to its own mounting church expenses very considerable sums, steadily growing sum for the maintenance of the ministry.

So, in place of parishes, the Church of England is beginning to have "parochial units" — combinations of parishes into entities capable of producing the allotted quota, in rural areas especially, this is a sad and unfortunate fact of the life of the small community.

The vicar, who has for so long been the central and unifying figure for all parishioners, will probably become a member of a "team ministry". The withdrawal of the focal figure is a lamentable loss.

Yet the Church of England seems curiously loath to make full use of the very resources of manpower which remain in it. Much is said of the ministry of the laity and of its value; but the laity are still kept very much in the shadow, useful (and indeed obligatory) assistants and conference, welcome as providing a change of voice in the less important services, desirable as guardians of a parish's finances; but in what must be supposed to be the prime duties of the church, the bringing of souls to Christ, the bringing of the "official class" of the clergy, the non-clergy are not ill-equipped to take over many of the duties which are still exclusively the parson's. The doctor, the lawyer, the teacher, the banker — all these, whether active or passive, have their vocations, as closely involved in personal and pastoral contacts as the parson; perhaps their acquired skills may even be better than his.

To select the lay people suitable for this commissioning is a fuller part in the church's life than is often given to them. Certainly local opinion must be consulted, local nomination accepted; unless there is just cause or impediment against it, it is typical to suggest that, such an involvement should not be obligatory.

Let no one say that it may not be to the church's benefit that the laity should be involved in a dreadful predicament. Without being in any sense anti-clerical, one can feel that, such an involvement of the laity in the church's most urgent work would signal a return to the earliest, simplest, and most effective form of Christianity. Not only would the laity, fuller participation benefit the church; it would also be the salvation of many communities destined otherwise to further disintegration.

So it may be suggested that before there is further fusion of parishes, especially in rural areas, the authorities should make it a rule to establish whether there are lay persons in the peripheral parishes who could be accepted as the central figures in their communities, commissioning by the bishop or the priest's functions.

The Gulf between clergy and laity has been allowed, even encouraged, to widen lamentably. The present shortage of ordinands and the lack of money for their sustenance should be allowed to serve a purpose in closing the Gulf. It is time that much talk of the ministry of the laity was superseded by a more positive use of them in fields where they could contribute most. Their potential for service is underrated. It is the laity who can bring Christianity back into our lives, into our politics and industry, in ways from which the clergy are, by the nature of their position, barred.

Geoffrey Sale
Mr. Sale was a member of the House of Lords in the General Assembly of the Church of England from 1960-70.

Glasgow Herald wins three design awards
The Glasgow Herald newspaper has won three design awards for its design awards.

25 years ago
From the Times of Wednesday, Nov. 12, 1952.

Science report
The receptors are there to allow the cells to respond to the brain. The receptors are there to allow the cells to respond to the brain.

Pharmacology: Antischizophrenic drugs
An ingenious new technique for monitoring the dose of antischizophrenic drugs is described. The technique is described.

Latest appointments
Dr. R. L. Gardner, aged 34, lecturer in development and reproduction in the Department of Zoology at the University of Oxford, has been appointed Henry Dale Research Fellow by the Council of the Royal Society in succession to Dr. J. G. Gossard, who has been appointed Secretary of the Medical Research Council.

Law Report November 11 1977
'Ordinarily working abroad': new demand for clarification

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So, in place of parishes, the Church of England is beginning to have "parochial units" — combinations of parishes into entities capable of producing the allotted quota, in rural areas especially, this is a sad and unfortunate fact of the life of the small community.

The vicar, who has for so long been the central and unifying figure for all parishioners, will probably become a member of a "team ministry". The withdrawal of the focal figure is a lamentable loss.

Yet the Church of England seems curiously loath to make full use of the very resources of manpower which remain in it. Much is said of the ministry of the laity and of its value; but the laity are still kept very much in the shadow, useful (and indeed obligatory) assistants and conference, welcome as providing a change of voice in the less important services, desirable as guardians of a parish's finances; but in what must be supposed to be the prime duties of the church, the bringing of souls to Christ, the bringing of the "official class" of the clergy, the non-clergy are not ill-equipped to take over many of the duties which are still exclusively the parson's. The doctor, the lawyer, the teacher, the banker — all these, whether active or passive, have their vocations, as closely involved in personal and pastoral contacts as the parson; perhaps their acquired skills may even be better than his.

To select the lay people suitable for this commissioning is a fuller part in the church's life than is often given to them. Certainly local opinion must be consulted, local nomination accepted; unless there is just cause or impediment against it, it is typical to suggest that, such an involvement of the laity in the church's most urgent work would signal a return to the earliest, simplest, and most effective form of Christianity. Not only would the laity, fuller participation benefit the church; it would also be the salvation of many communities destined otherwise to further disintegration.

So it may be suggested that before there is further fusion of parishes, especially in rural areas, the authorities should make it a rule to establish whether there are lay persons in the peripheral parishes who could be accepted as the central figures in their communities, commissioning by the bishop or the priest's functions.

The Gulf between clergy and laity has been allowed, even encouraged, to widen lamentably. The present shortage of ordinands and the lack of money for their sustenance should be allowed to serve a purpose in closing the Gulf. It is time that much talk of the ministry of the laity was superseded by a more positive use of them in fields where they could contribute most. Their potential for service is underrated. It is the laity who can bring Christianity back into our lives, into our politics and industry, in ways from which the clergy are, by the nature of their position, barred.

Geoffrey Sale
Mr. Sale was a member of the House of Lords in the General Assembly of the Church of England from 1960-70.

Glasgow Herald wins three design awards
The Glasgow Herald newspaper has won three design awards for its design awards.

25 years ago
From the Times of Wednesday, Nov. 12, 1952.

Science report
The receptors are there to allow the cells to respond to the brain. The receptors are there to allow the cells to respond to the brain.

Pharmacology: Antischizophrenic drugs
An ingenious new technique for monitoring the dose of antischizophrenic drugs is described. The technique is described.

Latest appointments
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Law Report November 11 1977
'Ordinarily working abroad': new demand for clarification

Wilson v Maynard Shipbuilding Consultants AB
Before Lord Justice Megaw, Lord Bridge and Lord Justice Wilford.

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OBITUARY

MR DENNIS WHEATLEY

Novels to thrill and inform

Mr. Dennis Wheatley, who died yesterday at the age of 80, was once described as a "Prince of Thriller Writers". In their sweep and prodigality, not to mention the enormous number of copies sold, his novels of adventure were indeed on a royal scale.

His first book, *The Forbidden Territory* (1933), was reprinted seven times within seven weeks of its publication, and has never been out of print since. The pattern of his future work was immediately established: he would write adventure stories with elaborate backgrounds of contemporary and historical, Napoleonic history, and so on, and would collaborate with Mr. G. Links, a succession of "crime dossiers" in which readers were provided not merely with a narrative but with tangible clues, such as bits of hair, photographs and traces of power.

He was born on January 3, 1897. His father, Albert David Wheatley, was the son of a prosperous Mayfair grocer, known from his marketing habits as "Read Money and Wheatley". Dennis was educated at Dulwich, which he detested and from which he was ultimately expelled, in HMS Worcester and afterwards in Germany. He had just entered his father's wine business in London when the First World War broke out. He was commissioned in the Royal Field Artillery and served in France with the City of London Brigade and the 36th (Ulster) Division. In 1919 he returned to the wine trade, eventually taking over his father's business until the depression warned him to find another source of income. He sold the wine firm in 1931 and began to write.

Several of his most popular novels, such as *The Devil Rides Out* (1935) and *The Hound of Hounds* (1937), dealt with Satanism and black magic, and

When asked why people liked his novels, he replied: "I think it is because I always write two books. First of all I write a straightforward thriller. Then I write information. People know when they read one of my books that they are going to learn something. They are not looking for a story, but for a powerful gift of story-telling. He took Duane as his model."

He was a conspicuous happy man, enjoying his success and the life of a writer. He collected beautiful objects and fine wines. He was married twice: to Nancy Melrose, who died in 1923, and to Jean Gwendoline Johnson.

MR R. H. HILL
Mr. Robert Henry Hill, "Bob" to his friends and colleagues on the *Times* and *The Literary Supplement*, which he served for 25 years, died yesterday at the age of 77. He was born on November 9, 1900, at the age of 77.

He was educated at the East Anglian School, Bury St Edmunds, and at Oxford where he took his degree. He saw something of the aftermath of the First World War while serving in the Army of the Rhine in 1919-20. He worked for some time on the staff of the *Oxford Chronicle* and this experience proved of considerable value when he was appointed to the post of Correspondent of *The Times* from 1934 to 1937, he served on

HIS HONOUR JUDGE SCOTT
His Honour Judge Scott, a Circuit Judge since 1971, died on November 10 at the age of 77.

Before the reorganization of courts he was a County Court Judge and between 1961 and 1971 he was successfully Recorder of York, Hull, Sheffield and Leeds. Between 1957 and 1971 he was also Chancellor of the Dioceses of Bradford and Ripon.

Henry Cooper Scott, son of the late C. Percy Scott, KC, was educated at Uppingham, graduated at Selwyn College, Cambridge, and after being called to the Bar in 1939 he served in Burma and other theatres of war. He became QC in 1961.

General Charles Bonesteel, who was United Nations commander-in-chief in Korea from 1966 to 1969, died on October 12, 20th 1969, he succeeded the British commander in Iceland, Major-General H. O. Curtis, in 1942.

Court of Appeal
Those responsible for the legislation did not appear to have taken account of the fact that the words "ordinarily working" could not have a different meaning in subparagraphs (2) and (3), and the Appeal Tribunal's judgment in the present case was wrong.

Moreover, it could not be right, nor could it be the intended meaning of the words used in paragraph (2), that one should decide the question of the employee's status by reference to what had actually happened. One must look at the terms of the contract, express or implied. The view taken by the Appeal Tribunal in *Mullin v Air India* (1974) ICR 528, it must be right.

That meaning conformed with the intention of the parties to paragraph (2) and also with good sense. If meant that the question whether or not this important statutory right existed was settled at the time of the making of the contract, it was not to be varied by the decision of the employer to give a dismissal notice at a time chosen by him.

If the contract, expressly or impliedly, required the employee to do his contractual work wholly or substantially wholly in Great Britain, the answer would normally be simple. But what if, as in the present case, an implied term of the contract was that the employee's work should be carried out wholly in Great Britain or wholly outside it? The answer would then be that the contract or any given period within it, a person could not during

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lately he edited a paperback series of classic novels with occult themes. "Don't dabble" was his invariable advice to inquirers; his own information came simply from wide reading, a single luncheon with Aleister Crowley, H. P. Lovecraft, and H. R. Price, and a personal leaning towards the doctrine of reincarnation.

When the Second World War began, he launched a new series of massive documentary spy stories—starting with a trilogy, *The Scarlet Imposter*, *Paked Passions* and *The Black Baroness*, all published in 1940—which followed the events of the war in Europe.

Wheatley himself began to play an active part, first as a civilian, then in the RAFVR; he was associated directly to the Joint Planning Staff of the War Office. He prepared an imaginative study of the technique which the Germans might employ in an invasion of Britain, and followed it with papers on "Village Warfare" and "Aerial Warfare" bringing to his predictions an unbridled freshness which sometimes proved closer to the truth than more orthodox appreciations. It was on his study of all British armaments, and his predictions of the operations which became known as "The Man Who Never Was" and "Monty's Double".

After the war he resumed his writing career as successfully as ever. With *The Longline* of Roger Brook (1947) he began what proved to be a 12-volume series of historical romances, opening in pre-revolutionary France and ending in *Desperate Measures* (1974), with the Dr's of Waterloo. Having rounded off, in various books, the lives of all his principal characters, he embarked on a five-volume autobiography, *The Young Man Said*, which was published in 1977.

When asked why people liked his novels, he replied: "I think it is because I always write two books. First of all I write a straightforward thriller. Then I write information. People know when they read one of my books that they are going to learn something. They are not looking for a story, but for a powerful gift of story-telling. He took Duane as his model."

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For the record

French lesson for All Blacks' pack

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

Personal
investment and
finance,
pages 20 and 21

Effort to suppress bribery report in 5-nation clash over tough prevention code

By Malcolm Brown

A call for tough measures to fight commercial and political corruption has been made by a top-level commission set up two years ago to investigate extortion and bribery.

Pressure is being brought to suppress the report of the commission, whose members include Lord Shawcross, Mr Jean Rey, former president of the European Commission, and Sheikh Yamani, Saudi Arabia's petroleum minister.

But representatives from Britain and the United States are expected to fight the report's main opponents—Germany, France and Belgium—and press for its publication after the November 29 meeting of the 5-nation International Chamber of Commerce, the Paris-based organization which set up the commission.

A copy of the report in the possession of *The Times* shows that the commission wants stringent new measures at national and international level to combat bribery. It also wants a voluntary code of ethics for business which would be policed by an international panel.

The commission gives its backing to the inter-governmental treaty on corruption being drafted under the aegis of the United Nations and says that this should commit states to fight extortion and bribery. It should provide for: stringent anti-corruption measures by individual governments; international cooperation and judicial assistance in dealing with extortion and bribery; and co-operation by all states in investigating and prosecuting offenders.

At a national level the commission wants to see disclosure procedures for both government officials involved in business

transactions and for business enterprises dealing with governments or government-controlled organizations.

States would be expected to devise means of making periodic reports to an appropriate governmental body about the financial interests and total wealth of officials and their immediate families. Reports would also have to be prepared on all payments and gifts received by government officials and their immediate families from enterprises doing business with those governments.

Also the commission wants to provide access to company information about agents dealing with public bodies or officials.

The commission dismisses the argument that corruption is always initiated by businesses.

"The truth is that much bribery is in fact the response to extortion," the report says. Enterprises have too often had the experience, it says, of being given a choice between giving in to extortion or not doing business.

"At the least it is true to say that, as in the case of theft, there would be no bribes if there were no willing and often demanding receivers."

Neither governments nor business alone could tackle the problem, so what was needed was complementary action by governments and the business community.

The commission suggests that the business community should establish a code of ethical practices under the wing of the ICC and that an international panel should be set up to oversee its implementation.

It is this section of the report which has caused most dissen-

sion among the ICC member states, with Germany, France and Belgium leading the opposition to a policing panel.

The code is seen as a method of voluntary self-regulation. Its two principal articles would state that no one might demand or accept a bribe and that enterprises might, directly or indirectly, offer or give a bribe in order to obtain or retain business.

The code also suggests that organizations should take measures to ensure that no part of any payment made by it finds its way back to employees as a "kickback".

Provisions are sought in the code to regulate agents and intermediaries and to ensure that there are no "secret accounts" kept by companies.

On agents the code says that enterprises should maintain a record of the names and terms of employment of all agents dealing with public bodies or state enterprises whose remuneration exceeds \$50,000 (about £28,000) a year. This record would be open to inspection by auditors and government bodies.

The international panel the commission wants to oversee the code would have wide-reaching powers. These have already been watered down after much argument within the ICC, but still remain unacceptable to a number of powerful representatives on the council.

Among the most controversial suggestions made by the commission is that the panel should have the power, at its discretion, to "name" organizations denounced to it as having given bribes, if the organizations have refused to appear before the panel.

ICL shares drop after head resigns

By Kenneth Owen
Technology Correspondent

Shares in International Computers (Britain), main indigenous computer company, fell 10p yesterday to 208p after the resignation for family medical reasons of Mr Geoffrey Cross, the managing director.

Mr Cross was recruited from Univac, one of the larger United States computer suppliers, five and a half years ago since when ICL's turnover and pre-tax profit have risen from £154m and £3.3m in 1972 to £288m and £2.1m in 1976. Unofficially the company's 1977 turnover has been put at more than £400m.

He is succeeded by Dr Christopher Wilson, formerly director of ICL's international division, but will remain on the ICL board until the end of this year.

Mr Cross said yesterday that the primary reason for his decision to resign was anxiety over the health of his two sons, Stephen, aged two and a half, and Geoffrey, aged five. They had suffered severely and continually from bronchitis, and medical advice had recommended a move to a warm, dry climate.

He and his family would be



Mr Cross (centre) outgoing managing director of International Computers with Dr Wilson (right) who succeeds him and Mr Tom Hudson, chairman.

returning early in the new year to the United States, where he would be looking for another job, but not necessarily in the computer industry.

Mr Cross is a naturalised American citizen.

A secondary reason for his decision, Mr Cross said, was disappointment in his inability to contain some of the company's industrial relations problems. ICL had suffered less than

most from such problems, but he was a perfectionist, and a better understanding between management and the trade unions over the past two years would have produced better results.

Last May, in the company's 1977 half-year report, Mr Tom Hudson, chairman, noted that interruptions in production (at West Gorton, Manchester) caused by industrial relations problems had resulted in

failures to meet delivery commitments to customers.

Mr Cross said he hoped his successor would be better able to convince people that the real fight was against IBM, and not "between ourselves".

Commenting on the fall in ICL share prices, Mr Hudson drew a comparison with those of Chloride when Mr Michael Edwards moved to Leyland, and said he was sure they would come up again.

Treasury reveals shortfall of £2,250m in public expenditure for last financial year

By Melvyn Walslake

Evidence continues to emerge of the extent by which government departments and local authorities are spending less than had been planned.

Only days after a House of Commons select committee was told of underspending in the current financial year, the Treasury has revealed that public expenditure in the last financial year, which ended in March, was some £2,250m (at 1977 survey prices) below the level planned in the Expenditure White Paper published as recently as last January.

The extent of last year's spending shortfall was disclosed yesterday by Mr. John Birt, Secretary to the Treasury, in answer to a Parliamentary question. He explained that of the £2,250m, about £1,750m resulted from underspending by the government, while the balance of £500m represented underspending by local authorities.

The total shortfall last year would seem to amount to

between 3 and 4 per cent of total planned expenditure.

A shortfall of this order is very rare. It is also very significant in terms of aggregate demand within the economy, coming when output was so depressed and unemployment was rising rapidly.

It was already known that some underspending had taken place during 1976-77. Last August, the Treasury disclosed that, spending within the new control system of cash limits, which covers about two-thirds of total public expenditure, was more than £1,000m under the ceiling, in cash terms. In volume terms, the fall was even greater because of the way inflation had eaten into the real value of the Government's purchases of goods and services.

Mr Birt's answer yesterday to a parliamentary question from Mr Nicholas Ridley, Conservative MP for Cirencester and Tewkesbury, provides a further piece of the jigsaw.

Only last Monday, Treasury officials giving evidence before the Commons general subcom-

mittee of the Expenditure Committee had revealed that the government spending in the present year was running 4 per cent below the ceiling set by the latest cash limits.

Attempting to explain the reason for such shortfalls in planned spending, Mr Birt said on Wednesday that there were several factors at work in 1976-77.

For instance, there was a tendency not to build up programmes for which lower levels were planned for 1977-78. In addition, some new or expanded programmes did not develop as fast as the plans provided for.

Prices also moved ahead more quickly than the cash limits had assumed and the limits may well have made managers more cautious in committing themselves to expenditure. Furthermore, government spending on defence and industrial subsidies fell short of the White Paper estimates.

Mr Birt admitted that the shortfall in public spending last year was "unusually large".

Belfast bids for Fairey offshoot fail

Short Brothers, the Belfast aircraft group, last night disclosed it had made abortive bids to buy the Britten/Norman Islander and Trident aircraft interests in the United Kingdom and Belgium.

Short Brothers is part of Fairey, the engineering group that last month called in a receiver after heavy losses on its Belgian operations.

Two offers were made by Short Brothers, one to the Britten/Norman group, and the other to the Belgian authorities that now have effective control of the operations there.

But Short Brothers said that both offers had been rejected. Originally it had hoped to buy just the Britten operations. But after discussions with the Belgian authorities it had become clear that because of some crucial rights, including the name Britten/Norman, agreement with both parties would be required.

New £600m Treasury stock issue

By John Whitmore
Financial Correspondent

The Government is to continue its funding programme with the issue of a new £600m Treasury 10 per cent stock, which will be placed by application. It is being priced at 235½ per cent to give a running yield of 10.47 per cent and a gross redemption yield of 11.6 per cent.

What kind of reception the stock will get when it goes on offer next Thursday will depend to a large extent on how the gilt market performs early next week.

Although the authorities feel that the price has been set roughly in line with the market, brokers tended to feel that the stock was slightly on the dear side.

Yesterday prices at the longer end of the market improved by around 75p.

Swiss national banks: In an attempt to mop up the excess liquidity caused by recent large currency inflows, the Swiss national bank is to issue Sw fr 500m of short term securities. The paper will be for one year and will carry a 1.5 per cent coupon well below market rates.

Mr Blumenthal asserts need for a strong dollar

From Frank Vogl
Washington, Nov 11

Mr Michael Blumenthal, Secretary of the Treasury, repeatedly asserted today that the Carter Administration wanted a strong dollar, and that the United States and the world derived no benefit from either a general weakening of the currency or from a deviation in terms of one or two specific foreign currencies.

He stated at a Senate Banking Committee meeting that the United States would continue to intervene in the exchange markets to "smooth out erratic fluctuations", but that heavy intervention was not the way to maintain a strong dollar. The approach must be based upon strengthening the domestic economy and reducing energy imports.

Mr Blumenthal said he did not expect the dollar to continue to weaken on the foreign exchange markets. "Under questioning from Senator William Proxmire, the committee chairman, he said that there should be no doubt that the Treasury was 'absolutely in charge of the nation's currency policies' and that in carrying out these policies it worked

"closely and cooperatively with the Federal Reserve".

He added that the continual consultations with the governments of West Germany, Japan and several other countries on foreign exchange matters demonstrated most clearly that the United States did care about its exchange rate—the strength of the dollar is of great importance to us."

He said the fortunes of the dollar would be improved by administration actions that aim to make further progress on reducing domestic inflation and seek to ensure a 5 per cent real rate of gross national product growth next year.

In this regard, the Treasury Secretary left no doubt that President Carter would propose tax reductions early in the new year. It was important for the Administration to offer some tax relief to individuals and provide greater opportunities for increased profitability for increased productivity.

Wall Street up again: Continued enthusiasm for Wall Street yesterday pushed the Dow Jones industrial average 13.34 points to close at 845.89. Over 35 million shares were traded, and the market has now gained nearly 30 points in the last three sessions.

Ford faces another week of disruption at Halewood

By Edward Townsend

Another week of disruption faces Ford at its Halewood plant on Merseyside, as a result of a paint shop dispute which has already cost the big lay-offs and production losses.

This week, output of Escort cars and vans has been halted by separate disputes on the day and night shifts in the paint shop, causing almost 3,000 workers to be on strike or laid off.

The night shift dispute developed when 21 painters stopped work over a menial issue. They are to return on Monday when the shift change over on a fortnightly rota system and the 4,000 workers laid off will be recalled.

Day shift workers this week were last week's victims of a dispute over the dismissal of a painter who allegedly assaulted a foreman.

The issue is further complicated by a decision by the plant's representatives not to resume work until the dismissal matter is resolved. This could mean that those recalled next week could be laid off again within a few hours.

Engineers attack Acas over denial of recognition

A furious attack on the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas) came yesterday from the United Kingdom Association of Professional Engineers (UKAPE) in the wake of its service's refusal to recommend recognition for the association in negotiations at the Bedford engineering company of W. H. Allen & Sons.

A delegation of some 50 professional engineers warned Mr Peter Carr, Acas's chief adviser, that if it similarly turned down the association at a further 25 sites which were coming up for examination Acas will be forcing responsible professional engineers to take industrial action as the only means of obtaining recognition for the trade union of their choice.

In the W. H. Allen case professional engineers there staged a one-day token strike but it is expected that members elsewhere, angry that Acas appears to be against it because it is not affiliated to the TUC, will now take more decisive strike action.

Bank of Rome chief freed after cooperation pledge

Rome, Nov 11

Sigmo Barone, joint managing director of the Bank of Rome, has been released after undertaking to provide full information to the Milan magistrates investigating the Sindona case. He is considered by them as a witness and no longer as an accused person.

Sigmo Barone was arrested in Milan on Wednesday for alleged recidivism in giving information during questioning about the affairs of Sigmo Michele Sindona, the Sicilian American financier whose banking interests in Italy were taken over by the Bank of Rome at the time of the collapse of his empire three years ago.

Judge Guido Viola of the Public Prosecutor's Office, said that Sigmo Barone underwent further interrogation yesterday, as a result of which it was decided to free him and drop the charge against him.

He described as "rather colourful" Italian press reports that Sigmo Barone had been released on condition he provided by 5 pm tomorrow a list of some 500 personalities alleged to have used the Sindona banking network to smuggle lire out of Italy to Switzerland. He indicated, however, that Sigmo Barone had undertaken to cooperate fully

More optimistic view by investors

For the first time in a fortnight the FT index was back over 500 on the London stock market yesterday as investors took a more optimistic view of the industrial scene.

At 501.4 it closed 11.7 better on the day and 25.2 higher over a week dominated by the ebb and flow of industrial news.

Gilt-edged securities were also in good form scoring early gains of almost 1½ which were sustained by the hope of a good start of trade figures on Monday.

In brief

group which processes all sugarbeet grown in the United Kingdom. It will complete the "Europeanization" of the British sugar industry by making the country supply more than half of its consumption for the first time by 1980. The corporation said the programme would be in the size of its labour force.

Cost of gains indexing

Indexing capital gains to take account of inflation would incur costs of the order of £250m if recent inflation rates continued, according to a Treasury

£22m Wimpey order

George Wimpey & Co (Nigeria) has won a £22m contract from the Federal Military Government to build troop quarters at Lokoja, Kwara state.

Wimpey is already working

on two large Nigerian contracts—one worth £28m

Ministers angry at threat of Budget cuts delay

Taxmen assess overtime protests ahead of meeting with Chancellor

Angry Inland Revenue tax officers are debating what action they should take if the Chancellor of the Exchequer fails to come up with some form of extra payment in respect of last month's mini-Budget, when they meet him to discuss the matter again on Monday.

After last Wednesday's meeting when the Chancellor rejected their request, Mr Tony Christopher, secretary of the Inland Revenue Staff Federation representing some 50,000 tax officers, has been conducting a whistle-stop tour to find out what action his members will support.

The Government is also known to be angry about the attitude that the tax officers are taking; enough delay has been built into the system of tax adjustments after the budget increase to personal allowances without the threat of further delays that might result if the IR Staff Federation insists its members not to overtime to rush the adjustments through.

However, there seems to be strong grass-roots support in tax offices for some financial recognition of the extra work that is being forced upon them. The Revenue has been burdened by substantial changes in the tax system in recent years plus more frequent changes in tax rates, personal allowances

and mortgage rates. The October 26 measures are regarded by many as the last straw.

Caught in the middle are taxpayers—many of whom have been dismayed to find out how long it will take for them to reap the benefits of the increased personal allowances. Even those whose tax affairs are most simple—PAYE taxpayers without mortgages who have not changed jobs this year—will not get the improved recoding until November 22.

Those who have changed jobs are expected to get their recoding, which is done manually, by December 6—if the system does not break down. And the five million or so PAYE taxpayers who are claiming tax relief in respect of their mortgage interest payments are not likely to get their tax codes adjusted until January or February.

It is in fact doubtful if mortgage holders will benefit from the increased allowances. The three mortgage interest rates cut this year, which reduce the amount of tax relief, mean that many taxpayers already owe the Inland Revenue a fair-sized sum which will cancel out the increase in allowances.

Take pity on the Revenue. It did try to help borrowers when it readjusted codes in September to allow for the first

two mortgage rate cuts. To prevent taxpayers being "bumped" by additional amounts of up to £50 in some cases, from the next monthly pay packet, it put them on a non-cumulative basis.

But this decision, based on the best of motives, means that the new allowances cannot immediately be taken into account by employers operating the PAYE system.

Most of these adjustments have to be done manually. The Inland Revenue has only one computerized PAYE centre. This handles the affairs of the 21 million employees of Scottish companies, about 10 per cent of the PAYE population.

And it is not only PAYE taxpayers whose codings have to be adjusted. The increased personal allowances means alterations to the assessments for Schedule A (income from land, etc) and Schedule D (self-employed etc) taxpayers, most of whom have already received their new wrong January 1 tax bill.

All told, the latest Budget will involve another 1.3 million hours of overtime as well as the 2.5 million overtime hours already earmarked for the adjustments announced earlier. Last year Revenue men did 2 million hours of overtime.

Margaret Stone

Low the markets moved

Ises	
Adm	4p to 34p
Bham	5p to 64p
Bst	2p to 23p
Bt	20p to 51p
Cellia Inv	18p to 230p
FHS	10p to 400p
HS Smith	3p to 30p
Hilling	10p to 67p
Ker Ulman	5p to 51p
Lere & Gen	6p to 66p
Ndwel	13p to 26p

Fs

ICI	10p to 208p
Legate Inv	5p to 79p
Steele Zoch	5p to 210p

Eags were strong. Caged securities added £1. No. premium: 88.5 per cent (five rate 37.42 per cent). Silver was 25 points down at 51.8. The effective exchange rates was at 63.8.

Other pages

B. Base Rates Table

THE POUND

Bank	Bank
Australia	1.66
Austria	30.75
Belgium	66.75
Canada	2.01
Denmark	11.50
Finland	7.75
France	9.12
Germany	4.27
Greece	76.90
Hongkong	8.85
Italy	162.00
Japan	478.00
Netherlands	4.50
Portugal	20.00
Spain	157.00
Sweden	4.20
Switzerland	1.36
US	1.36
Yugoslavia	39.25

Gold gained \$0.75 to \$167.525. SDR-S was 1.17968 on Friday, while SDR-E was 0.64829. Commodities: Rice index was at 1465.5 (previous 1462.0). Reports, pages 21 and 22

Interim statement: CFP

22

PERSONAL INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

Grouse

Many investment trust companies have been attempting to smarten up the presentation of their annual shareholders' accounts of late, in line with the new publicity-conscious wave of idealism that is sweeping parts of the movement.

But, under the present rules covering the amount of disclosure required by the investment trust groups, the slower, or slyer, ones are still able to get away with giving shareholders less than a peep at the underlying assets.

The Stock Exchange requires companies to reveal their largest investments to shareholders and any holding of over 5 per cent has to be revealed automatically in any way under a recent amendment in company law. But within those requirements investment trust groups can interpret the Stock Exchange's regulations more or less as they wish. Some merely give the ten largest holdings—some give the top 20.

The Stock Exchange also requires a breakdown of geographic spread, industrial sectors and the ratio of equities to fixed interest securities. But even when a group has fulfilled these rather vague requirements its shareholders can still be left monumentally ignorant about their group's investments.

Contrast this with the requirements for unit trust groups, where portfolios must be revealed in their entirety once a year. Investment trust shareholders do not even have the automatic right to receive full details of their group's year-end holdings by applying to the company.

Several investment trust companies, do, of course, offer the full unexpurgated version on request and a number of trust companies have, happily, adopted the annual habit of full disclosure. The Five Schroder Waggs trusts, Stewart American's Scottish American trust and Ivory & Sime's British Assets are examples. But dozens continue to disclose little other than the top ten or so holdings.

The Association of Investment Trust Managers should consider giving its members some firm guidance on disclosure—it cannot, after all, do the public image anything other than good. Professional investors or advisers would find the information useful, particularly in working out more accurate asset values, and the more sophisticated private investor would welcome it as an aid in checking the investment skills of the manager.

Taxation: readers ask

Covenants • Schedule E assessments • Loan interest • Gains tax

This week's article is given over to readers' letters and the subjects are deeds of covenant, schedule E assessments, capital gains and the deductibility of loan interest.

On deeds of covenant, a reader writes: "My 18 year old daughter begins a degree course next month and as she will receive only a small grant we intend to make a deed of covenant in her favour. We are not sure where the Government's plans for phasing out child allowance leave us at the moment, and therefore what is the most favourable figure to choose for the covenanted sum."

The child allowance at present in force for children under 16 is £10.50 a week. In 1977 and receiving full-time education is £261 for a first child and £235 for others. If the child's income exceeds £350 (this includes earnings from holiday jobs and the gross amount of investment income which is not tax exempt, such as from trusts and deeds of covenant) the allowance is reduced by the amount of the excess.

So there are two clear-cut alternatives. One is to pay a modest amount under the deed so that the child's income does not exceed £350. The parent will deduct basic rate tax of 34 per cent from the gross amount—there is no relief at the higher rates—and pay over the net sum to the child, who will reclaim the tax. Alternatively the parent can claim tax relief on the child allowance at his (or her if a single parent) highest rate of tax. The other alternative is for the parent to covenant to pay a gross figure up to the full amount of the tax-free single personal allowance (now £345 following the recent budget). Tax will be deducted at the basic rate, which can be reclaimed by the child.

The penalty here is that tax relief on the child allowance is lost and at the parent's highest tax rate. However, this penalty gets less important as time goes on due to the fact that child allowances are eventually to be phased out altogether. According to the latest information for 1978-79, the allowance for children aged 16 or over will be reduced to £165.

There were a few more questions from this particular reader but none of them arose from a misunderstanding. To clear the point, it is the child benefit that automatically ceases when the child reaches the age of 19, not the child allowance, which continues while the child is receiving full-time education—until of course it is phased out.

For the tax year in which full-time education ceases the question whether or not the parent can claim any child allowance depends on the child's income for that year. If it is over £350 the allowance is reduced by the excess.

The letter continues: "Will the entire amount (of the payment under the deed) be attributed to one tax year though paid quarterly from October?" No. It is the gross amount due for payment in the tax year that is relevant.

"Lastly, would it be possible later to increase the covenanted sum—perhaps by a second deed—to bring it up to the single person's tax-free allowance? Yes, additional deeds can be executed, or the first one can be cancelled (by mutual agreement with the donee) and another substituted.

For the avoidance of doubt let me stress that what I have said above is not relevant to children under the age of 18.

Clive company

Clive Investments, part of the Clive Discount Group, has formed a new Jersey company to provide fixed interest fund management in sterling securities for Channel Islands or other non-United Kingdom resident investors. The new company is

designed for large individual or corporate investors. Clive Investments invests mainly in British Government stocks that are tax free to non-United Kingdom residents. Earlier this year Clive launched two new fixed interest funds designed for the smaller private investor with £5,000 or more to invest.

During the many years in which I have written about industry and all aspects of finance, I was hoping one day to write a book about family finance, because readers' letters showed how badly it was needed. So I am very glad that Margaret Allen has finally done it with "The Money Book".

"People rarely budget," she says, "defining the difference between proper budgeting and a rather miserly penny-pinching, penny-counting attitude. They may think they do but mostly they live from hand to mouth and then start worrying when problems begin to accumulate. I hope I have been able to help them to plan, to prevent trouble, to avoid the terrible stress and strain that money and the shortage of it can bring. There really are few anxieties worse than those about money."

I put it to her that money is frightening even before people start thinking about it; that there are more mental blocks about money-management than about marriage, sex or having children. That people who instinctively manage money badly also find themselves bored by it, and so will those who really need to read about it.

"Yes, they are bored," she admits. "But I have tried to make them see that it is simple, and then the fear and the boredom go."

She starts where she should and where so few writers of money books ever really do start, with a chapter on budgeting. She points out the priorities, the questions every one should ask themselves and perhaps less easily answer. She goes on through every possible variety of saving and spending from mortgages to insurance and from travel to holidays.

Jobs and unemployment next, and how to deal with advice on employment contracts and on unemployment or redundancy entitlements. She carries that through logically to advice on running your own partnership or company.

Family Finance is the heading of section three, but I must stress that the whole book is as much about family finance as investment or savings advice. How right it is to have chapters about having babies and the cost of bringing them up together with information on the various benefits involved.

Divorce and maintenance, living together and single-parent families get their own advice, and many a man or woman left alone would find the future

Insurance

Life funds and low interest rates

While many investors think mainly in terms of capital appreciation, it is usually income which is most important to a life office—and this includes the interest on the investments.

That fact was demonstrated at the end of 1974. Despite the sharp fall in equity prices, no office reduced its reversionary bonus rate and there were quite a number of increases. This was achieved because of the higher rates of interest which could be obtained.

Over the past few months the position has changed quite markedly; equity prices have risen and interest rates have dropped. How will this affect life bonuses?

Rates of interest in the long term are what really matter to life offices, and it is unlikely that actuaries will be too worried at this stage, though there is the disturbing consideration that while interest rates have come down there has so far been no marked drop in the rate of inflation. The gap between market rates of interest and inflation has widened.

In calculating their non-profit whole life and endowment premiums many offices have recently been assuming gross long-term rates of interest of between 9 and 11 per cent. The much higher rates of interest obtainable have been something of a bonus and, by investing heavily in the gilts and government securities, many offices have been able to increase the overall return on their funds quite significantly; that should stand them in good stead in the future.

No doubt some offices have felt that it could be a long time before such high rates of interest would be obtainable again. Where possible, therefore, large offices may have invested at high rates of interest for periods beyond the date needed to meet liabilities, so as to obtain the advantage of these rates for as long as possible.

Useful as that may sound, an office must make sure that it always has assets to match its liabilities, however yields and prices may move in the future.

Actuaries might have to think again about bonuses and premium rates if over a period of some years long-term rates of interest come down to about 8 per cent or even less, even though inflation might have been brought under control. Much would then depend on what increases in income were

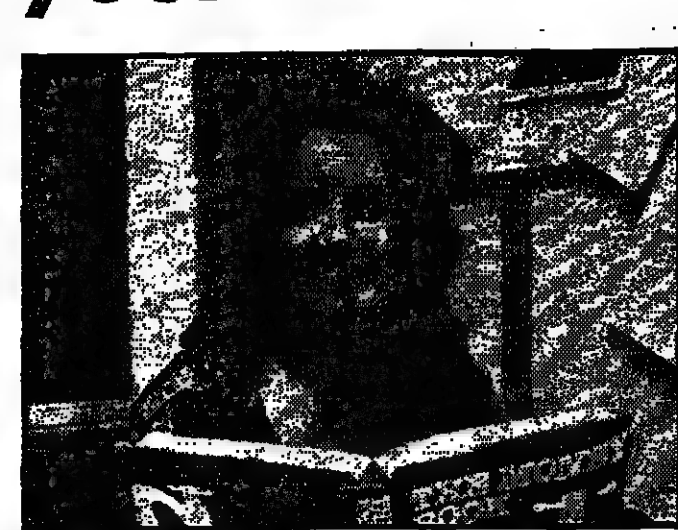
being obtained from equity and property investments.

Terminal bonuses are a different proposition. To a great extent they depend on capital appreciation—on equities, although the actuaries' view is widely among individual offices.

When share prices dropped sharply, some offices reduced their terminal bonuses. Already, some increases have been made. With most offices, terminal bonuses will not fluctuate to the same extent as equity prices, since some of the fluctuation in price is likely to be compensated for by a corresponding rise or fall in rates of interest obtainable on fixed interest investments; and any office is bound to have a substantial proportion of its funds in such investments.

John Drummond

Your money and your life...



Margaret Allen, author of The Money Book.

dundancy entitlements. She carries that through logically to advice on running your own partnership or company.

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a good deal easier to face merely by reading her account of what to do in such circumstances, for these are times when the brain fails to focus property and practical commonsense help and advice are essential. Synopses are all very well and just as essential, but nobody can actually buckle down to having babies and the cost of bringing them up together with information on the various benefits involved.

The author soon gets to knottier subjects such as taxation, and is a great help on saving, accounts' fees with advice on tax returns—although giving

full credit to accountants and spelling out why and when they are necessary.

In the section on investment she leads beginners through what seems initially like a maze, but also clearly explains how the different money markets work, and asked in commodity and property investments as well. As far as one can in a relatively few pages, she touches on buying antiques, collecting silver, stamps, banknotes, gems and more before going on to the rather more prosaic business of advice on providing for retirement.

Is it part of her obvious aim to be as comprehensive as possible, or is it her sense of humour that tempted her to end the section on investing with a chapter on gambling, taking in football pools, horses (including the quackery of greyhound racing, gaming and bingo)?

That is the whole point of the book, the comprehensive, sound advice. I should add that there is a final section on your money and the law which helps you on consumer protection rights, the laws on credit buying and secondhand goods, on debts and bankruptcy as well as advising on how to find a solicitor and what legal aids are on tap.

Much of the book, if not all of it, has been said and written before, often in more detail. But I will stick my neck out and say that the data have never before been collected and put together in one single volume. A thick volume—435 pages besides the good and useful index and contents pages—but a manageable one. It is the kind of book to keep on the shelf and go to for advice and solace.

Sheila Black

The Money Book: Your Money & Your Life, Sidgwick & Jackson, £6.50.

Pensions

Contracting out day matters to everyone

You may have noticed with casual interest, about the approaching deadline for contracting out of the new state earnings-related pension scheme, due to start next April. If you belong to your employer's pension scheme or are due to join one by next April, you should make more than a casual interest—it may cost you money if your employer misses the contracting out date.

The Occupational Pensions Board are responsible for administering the contracting out arrangements; they hoped to be able to process applications—tens of thousands of them—over a long period starting in the spring of this year.

For various reasons, particularly uncertainty about the requirements and about the effect of pay restraint, there was considerable delay in the early stages. Even now the flow of applications is only just beginning to build up and only a few hundred cases have been processed.

Regulations recently published allow the board to issue certificates without examining all the documents, subject to an undertaking that any deficiencies will be put right. This will enable employers to obtain certificates on a provisional basis—even if their applications are not made until near to April 5. The latest date is March 14.

The urgency at this stage arises from the requirement that employers must give three months' notice to employees and their representatives to allow consideration with them on any proposal to contract out. Incidentally, the law also requires employers to give notice and consult about a decision not to contract out; but this is a separate matter of compliance, and if an employer does nothing, his employees will automatically be taken into the state scheme.

It is this feature which gives the situation a financial importance for pension scheme members themselves. Allowing for the three-month period of notice, the deadline for decision by employers is December 14. If the employer fails to meet that timetable, his employees will be taken into the state pension scheme and they will have to pay the highest rate of contribution appropriate to people who are not contracted out.

Most people who are expecting to be contracted out are already members of a "good" occupational pension scheme (according to Mrs Castle's defi-

Pensions

Contracting out day matters to everyone

nition of "good") and the majority are paying contributions towards their pension benefits under their scheme. The contracting out arrangements are intended as a way of avoiding double provision and double contributions.

Some new schemes are being set up, or existing modest schemes improved, and these again the members are normally being asked to contribute to the cost, or increase the level of contributions they are already making.

These contributions will be payable whether or not the contracting out arrangements go through in time. So if there is some slip-up over the administrative procedure and a delay in obtaining a certificate, the scheme members will find themselves paying both contributions to their employer's pension scheme and the higher rate of contribution to the state scheme.

Both sets of contributions will, of course, earn the appropriate benefits at retirement. From that point of view there is no need to worry—there will be no financial loss as a result; but there is a limit to how much people want to put aside for their old age, particularly after a period of falling living standards.

The amount involved is 23 per cent of earnings between the "lower earnings level" and the "upper earnings level". At present, these levels are £13 a week and £91 a week, but next April, when the new state scheme starts, the figure will be revised upwards. The upper figure is about one and a half times national average earnings.

Just as the limits are not yet finally decided, so the contribution rate still has to be assessed. It depends to some extent on the number of schemes expected to contract out. Probably the rate will go up, for employers not contracted out, by either 2 per cent or 1 per cent.

In conjunction with the increase on the upper limit of earnings on which contributions are payable, the change will have a noticeable effect on pay packets after April 6.

Anyone contracted out will pay 23 per cent of his earnings between the two limits for people who are not contracted out—this figure at least is fixed. As National Insurance contributions do not qualify for this 23 per cent is a straight addition to the pay packet.

The effect for people contracted out will probably be a reduction in contributions, even for those earning more than the new upper limit. So getting through the contracting out procedure in time are not just the concern of employers or pension consultants; if things go wrong, it may hit the pocket of scheme members.

Eric Brunet

New products revealed this week include two "exempt"

panies' preference share capital. Both groups of preference shares will be cancelled and existing shareholders offered 15p per share of the new 15p per share preference.

Tough luck for the preference shareholders: par value in both cases is 25p. Some of the bigger investment trusts have a more generous anti-dilution clause, but the popular class of share, Under the Carli/Tyneside merger terms the offers do not look particularly attractive.

Since the bulk of both stocks is held by the companies themselves and the offers are "group" offers, almost identical in personnel, there cannot be much hope for an improvement in the terms.

Where a basic rate tax has to be deducted by the payer of the maintenance, this can be reclaimed if the children's annual income is below £945. Where the amounts are less than £12 weekly or £52 monthly they are termed "small maintenance payments" and are paid gross to the recipient.

These weekly or monthly limits apply to each separate payment—£12 or £52 each for individual children. The gross amount of the payment is taken off the payer's income as an annual charge before his assessment for income tax. In the same way as a mortgage payment. But if the court order refers to main-

tenance as an annual sum, the payments cannot be classified as gross maintenance payments, even if the weekly or monthly payments are small.

Clearly, if aggregation were reintroduced the child's income would, in all circumstances, be classified as the mother's and increase the likelihood of the family paying the investment income surcharge on maintenance payments.

Solicitors who draw up financial agreements between warring couples are often busy about their clients' tax positions—or the rapid changes that affect them. The opportunity to secure the tax benefits of non-aggregation are frequently missed because of the precise wording of these court orders.

If it is stated that maintenance for the child should be paid to the mother, it is all classified as her income for tax purposes. It is important to state in the order that the money is payable directly to the child—who should be named—even if one is referring to a baby in arms and clearly for practical purposes, the money will be paid to the mother.

Despite all the complication over their children's capital gain, the tax rules are mercifully simple. Each child is assessed separately. Although, as we have seen, the dividends received from shares you give your child are taxed as your income, if capital gains made on the shares are the child's, if you happen to be a wheeling and dealing family, that could reduce your total capital gains tax liability as the child's gain will probably be assessed under the 10 per cent rule for gains of up to £5,000 in any tax year.

Margaret Drummond

Round-up

Well, do we need a property unit trust?

Tucked away in the evidence of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors to the Wilson Committee is a recommendation that the Government should permit the formation of authorized unit trusts through which individual savers could invest in property. At present the Department of Credit will not authorize direct investment by a unit trust in

property, although trusts may, and do, specialise in property company shares. (Existing property unit trusts are not authorized to invest in shares.)

It is doubtful if the RIC's recommendations will be considered very seriously because investment by conventional unit trusts in bricks and mortar poses a variety of problems.

First, the unit trust movement, designed for the small investor—average holdings at present are less than £1,000. Whereas the unit trust manager can fairly easily sell quoted securities if he encounters a large number of redemptions, a property trust could find it extremely difficult to liquidate office blocks to order.

What is more many unit trusts are too small to build up a reasonable property portfolio.

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Children

Income tax problems for the very young

You're never too young to pay tax—that must be the motto of the Inland Revenue. Its long arm reaches even into the cradle. From its fully paid-up member of the taxable classes and obliged to fill in an annual return in his own right.

But it is not all gloom. The birth of a child means greater tax allowances for the parents, even if these are no longer the tax saving reliefs they once were.

Child tax relief, family allowance, child benefit: Child tax relief, the personal tax relief you get in respect of each child, is due to be phased out over the next few years. The birth of a child means greater tax allowances for the parents, even if these are no longer the tax saving reliefs they once were.

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FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

The market neutral on mixed labour news

inspired gains of 51 or so. Results put the spotlight on the stores sector, where Sainsbury led 22p to 205p after a warning on future margins and Boots, at 231p, encountered an uncertain reception.

But the statement from WH Smith met the market's long-held hope of a share split and the "A" shares rose 50p to 820p.

A dividend boosting acquisition enabled contractor John Mowlem to rise 22p to 196p and news of an approach to buy a frequent customer out to be from Trafalgar House and worth 20p a share lifted un-

Elsewhere in newspaper publishing Reed International remained friendless because of the industrial problems at the *Daily Mirror* and the shares lost 9p to 132p. Figures from AB Foods, one of Britain's three leading bakers, showed up the likely cost of the recent strike and also gave notice of a likely increase in the cost of a loaf by possibly as much as 3p. The shares rose 5p to 70p.

David Mott

"comprehensive" is loose, and does not refer to a standard wording. Each insurer has a different wording, and it is not always easy to tell which is "best". This is a problem

Allied to the cover stated in the policy is a company's attitude to claims settlement. Here we

again, there can be significant variations and, often, it is the insurer charging the lower premium which cannot really afford to give the benefit of doubt or to be more "generous" when the business is

often in practice) there is a "borderline" claim of some kind.

If premiums alone were compared, one is not comparing like with like, and nobody has

been able to compile a table to show, at a glance, the respective levels of service, cover and attitudes to claims of the companies and motor syndicates at Lloyd's.

This is where a knowledge-

able insurance broker can help. You can specify, for instance, that you want "the cheapest at any price", or good cover and service, etc at a reasonable price. It will help the broker to pick the insurer

best suited to your needs, because top class service does not always go hand in hand with the lowest premium.

M. & G Extra Yield	81.6	235.3
Carbol High Yield F	78.8	—
London Wall High Inc	78.8	178.6
	77.6	176.6

M & G Extra Yield	81.6	235.3
Carlott High Yield F	78.8	—
London Wall High Inc	78.8	178.6
Tanger Income	77.8	176.6
Unicorn Extra Income	77.6	175.2
Schroder Income F	77.4	210.8
Oceanic High Income	77.1	102.5

M & G Extra Yield	81.6	235.3
Carroll High Yield F	78.8	—
London Wall High Inc	78.8	178.6
Target Income	78.8	178.6
Unicorn Income	77.6	175.2
Schroder Income F	77.4	210.8
Oceanic High Income	77.1	162.5
Chieftain High Inc	75.7	—
Ansbacher Inc Month	75.2	—
Capel Income	74.9	—
Roman High Yield	74.7	122.1
Key Income	74.4	135.6
Unicorn High Yld	74.1	196.3
CT Income	73.1	138.2
Gartmore High Inc	72.9	163.2

M & G Extra Yield	81.6	235.3
Carlisle High Yield F	77.8	178.6
London Wall High Inc	78.8	178.6
Target Income	77.6	178.6
Chapman Income	77.6	178.6
Schrader Income F	77.4	20.0
Oceanic High Income	77.1	102.5
Capital High	76.8	178.6
Chapman Inc Month	75.2	2.0
Rowan High Yield	74.9	178.6
London Wall High F	74.4	135.6
Allied Hum High Yld	74.1	198.3
GT Income	73.9	139.2
Gwynne High Yield	73.9	178.6
London Wall High Inc	73.3	178.6
Heenderson High Inc	71.5	141.0
Arbuthnot Extra Inc	71.3	127.5
S & P High Return	71.0	140.0
M & G Dividend	70.9	175.3
Garmore Income	70.1	180.3
Wickmore Dividend	68.9	178.6
Union Income	65.7	175.0
Charterhouse Income	67.7	103.0
Tyndall Scottish Inc	66.3	120.7
Union Income	65.7	175.0
Bill Samuel Income	65.7	178.6
Mutual High Yield	65.7	138.0
Anthony Gibbs Income	65.1	102.9
London Wall High Inc	64.3	139.2
Nat & Com Inc F	64.2	130.4
London Wall High Inc	64.2	130.4
Allied Equity Income	63.8	126.0
Vanguard High Yield	63.7	125.7
Crescent High Dist	60.6	135.3
Bridge Income	59.8	125.7
High Life Dividend	58.9	125.7
Allied High Income	58.3	145.5
S & P High Yield	57.8	116.5
North West Inc	57.1	133.7
N & P Global Income	56.5	151.2
New Court Income	56.4	138.0
Tyndall Income	56.4	108.1
Pearl Income	56.2	132.6
Bratton & B Inc	55.8	132.6
Target Extra Income	55.2	98.0
CanLife Income	55.2	119.1
Lloyds Bank Third	55.2	150.2
Waver Extra Inc	55.2	151.2
J & P Scrymgeour	54.9	114.1
Albion Income	53.5	157.0
Bratton's Extra Inc	53.2	95.2
Bratton's Name	52.1	136.4
Seabag Income	53.0	108.1
Abbey Income	50.8	151.3
L & C Income	50.8	108.1
Arbuthnot High Inc	50.3	104.5
London Wall High Inc	49.6	54.2
Mutual Income	48.0	108.1
Lawson High Yield	44.5	94.9
Trident Income	38.7	83.3

offer to bid, income reinvested;
offer to bid, income reinvested.

Davy International 9p to 247p
and Powell Duffryn 12p to 223p

were well supported but of re-
 sults already announced Stalex
 slipped 2p to 19p on lower
 forecasts and Radley Fashions firmed 12p
 to 44p.
 Doubled profits lifted Mam-
 mores Bronze 9p to 55p, while
 another to benefit from figures
 was Wolsey Hughes which
 finished 5p ahead at 170p. After
 houses, housebuilders made fur-
 ther progress under the lead of

...p better at 294p on gossip that
...the identity of a successful
...nuitur will be revealed in a few days. The popular choice is
...Stanley Gibbons but there is a
...to thought that it might be
...turn out to be one of the bigger
...industrial names.

...Sarratt Developments at 112p.
...Some gilts, particularly "med-
...iums", improved to finish over-
...l better.

...Equity turnover on November

Wolcott II

sees no revival yet

Academic observers are convinced of a consumer spending boom in the run up to Christmas but precious few companies manufacturing or selling directly to the public are prepared to say that such a boom has started.

The latest eye witness is Mr. Harry Sporborg, chairman of Gomme Holdings, which understandably claims that its G-Plan furniture has been the

best known brand for years. In his annual statement with the accounts for the year to July 29 the chairman reports on the summer lull in High Street spending and the conse-

He adds: "Although the rate of incoming orders has increased since the end of the

“The only reliable indication of a general improvement in the retail furniture trade,” industry deliveries by volume have not returned to 1973

However, the two factories at High Wycombe and Nelson are working full time and the group is extending capacity, and installing some of the

most advanced furniture machinery in the world. On one topic Mr. Sporberg says nothing. Marley is still sitting on just under 30 per cent of the inquiry.

CA
now regard Wall Street as

e than London
TORS CHRONICLE 9877
units in American trusts in
ould be sitting on
the end of 1978
Y EXPRESS 278 TT

TWO WAYS TO INVEST
 15, TOWER HILL, LONDON EC3R 6BQ.
 Application to be completed by all applicants

90 AG 481117

in ACCUMULATION/INCOME units:
 tion units will be issued) of the M&G
 nite ruling on receipt of this
 ex. 1A contract note will be sent to you

the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands, or acquiring the units as the nominee of any bank or stockbroker.)

DATE

month in the M&G American & General Fund.

DATE OF BIRTH _____

Are you an existing M&S Plan holder? Yes. No
 on below, detach and sign Part II.
 best of my belief, I am in good health and
 my serious illness or major operation that I
 or pursuits, that I do not anticipate a situation

DATE _____

The United Nations The Channel Islands
- acquiring the assets or the revenues of any
of you are unable to make the
bank or stockbroker)

DATE

If you wish to make a Regular
minimum £10 a month,
month in the M&G American &
realised.
monthly payment, made payable to

Professional and that the company will not
acceptance has been received

DAY OF BIRTH

OR (to whom reference may be made)

Do you own an existing Life Plan holder? Yes No
If yes, please specify the name of the holder and the date of birth of the holder.

I hereby declare that I am not aged past 65 and
I have no other life insurance policies in force at the time of my application.

or pursuits, that I do not receive a valuation
concerning routes, and that no proposal on
valuation made by me in connection with
contact between me and the G Trust,
their customary form of policy I agree to
reply may require
on request.)

Office as above

M&G

MAIL GROUP

Year	Value	Year	Value
1970	4.00	1978	4.00
1971	4.00	1979	4.00
1972	4.00	1980	4.00
1973	4.00	1981	4.00
1974	4.00	1982	4.00
1975	4.00	1983	4.00
1976	4.00	1984	4.00
1977	4.00	1985	4.00
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2003	4.00	2011	4.00
2004	4.00	2012	4.00
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2036	4.00	2044	4.00
2037	4.00	2045	4.00
2038	4.00	2046	4.00
2039	4.00	2047	4.00
2040	4.00	2048	4.00
2041	4.00	2049	4.00
2042	4.00	2050	4.00
2043	4.00	2051	4.00
2044	4.00	2052	4.00
2045	4.00	2053	4.00
2046	4.00	2054	4.00
2047	4.00	2055	4.00
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2060	4.00	2068	4.00
2061	4.00	2069	4.00
2062	4.00	2070	4.00
2063	4.00	2071	4.00
2064	4.00	2072	4.00
2065	4.00	2073	4.00
2066	4.00	2074	4.00
2067	4.00	2075	4.00
2068	4.00	2076</	



Stock Exchange Prices

Long Gilts Feature

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Begin, Monday. Dealings End, Nov 25. Contango Day, Nov 28. Settlement Day, Dec 6
 \$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

BRITISH FUNDS				COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL				COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN				LOCAL AUTHORITIES				FOREIGN STOCKS				DOLLAR STOCKS				BANKS AND DISCOUNTS				BREWERS AND DISTILLERS			
High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price
100.00	99.50	British Airways	100.00	100.00	99.50	British Airways	100.00	100.00	99.50	British Airways	100.00	100.00	99.50	British Airways	100.00	100.00	99.50	British Airways	100.00	100.00	99.50	British Airways	100.00	100.00	99.50	British Airways	100.00	100.00	99.50	British Airways	100.00

THE TIMES SHARE INDICES

The Times Share Index for 11.11.77 (Index June 2, 1968 original base June 2, 1968 = 1000)			
Index	Value	Index	Value
Large Cap	1000.00	Small Cap	1000.00
Industrial	1000.00	Financial	1000.00
Consumer Goods	1000.00	Healthcare	1000.00
Technology	1000.00	Energy	1000.00
Telecommunications	1000.00	Real Estate	1000.00
Utilities	1000.00	Transportation	1000.00
Food & Beverage	1000.00	Chemicals	1000.00
Pharmaceuticals	1000.00	Media	1000.00
Services	1000.00	Other	1000.00

Weekend

SHOP AROUND

Sheila Black

Children tried out toys for me and gave me their reactions, as well as the reasons for choosing the toys they tried. Everything they chose comes from Hamley's catalogue (200 Regent Street, London, W1), and it is also a Mecca, albeit a crowded one, for personal shoppers. One of the advantages of Hamley's is that most of the toys can actually be tried out often in small spaces, and played with. The same is true of the newish Model Centre in Welbeck Street (the Oxford Street end) and the new Sport and Leisure centre in Wigmore Street (where Debenhams and Freebody, later Harvey Nichols, used to be). The latter is open from 8 am to 3 pm, is staffed by enthusiasts for the sports department in which they serve joyfully because the peculiar hours give them long shifts off in which to train or compose.

But to our children. Mamma made the choice for young Jacob, 10 months old and feeling very grown up because he got a set of Lego Bricks (£2.25) to make pull-along elephants. The set is aimed at infants from 18 months old, but Jacob chews them, throws them, piles them and knocks them down. The bricks are the ideal size for him to clutch and handle, and he loves the hollow undersides into which his fingers just fit for prodding. He packs and repacks the Lego into its box, which is very strong with a carrying handle, while his parents feel their money has been well spent because the set will not only become a more educational toy, lasting for years, but she can be added to as time goes by. Jacob does everything but make elephants.

Jacob's brother, Sampson (aged eight) does not like fluffy toys. "I don't mind fluffy strong ones. I like model planes because I can use them with my soldiers and any toys which go with things I've got already and books because a lot of the time I am reading because my writing and because I've broken my arm." His writing was excellent. Alban, aged six, likes models, outdoor games and poetry, but three-year-old Joshua who writes almost legibly—dislikes noisy toys.

Zoe, 10 months, is one of the few of girls who have been given toys and her opinion sums up the others when she says: "I don't usually like my Christmas presents because people always buy me girls' toys and boys' toys are usually more exciting, but friends laugh when I tell them and never get them for me, although they are not expensive. My teddy and Daddy are good and give me what I want, for instance they got me a bionic Action Man and a Meccano set and they did not think it was funny, but this is school did. She chose a torch which was "marvellous and definitely worth it and I play with it every single day and keep under my pillow because I love it. My sister and I have played nearly every day with the cars and the articulated transporter", which is £4.65 with a drop-down tow truck, rear-loading ramp and five Matchbox cars. A smaller transporter with aeroplane is £1.85.

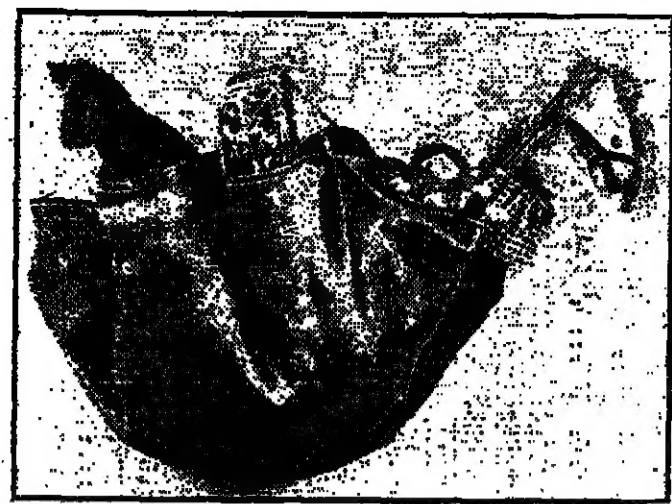
Fiona, aged 15, could not resist the chemistry set by Thomas Salter Science because, although she does not like chemistry "this is quite different and great fun". There is also a dash-boarded mummy doll with baby and they sell at about £4.99 at Hamley's, most stores. The Tree House, and a fair number of toyshops. Being like bean bags but well stuffed, they are virtually indestructible.

Then comes a genuinely handmade and home-machined doll which can take up to three weeks to be made, but the lady who does them has built up a large stock so we shall hope to improve on that considerably. Dresses are in basic blues, greens, reds, pinks and so forth but try asking for a special if you are prepared to wait. Styles are as in the drawing, with a short puffy over a petticoat and a short puffy over a petticoat.

Orders to Gillian Field, 12 Stoddley Crescent, New Barn, Longfield, Kent, but please do not try to telephone this collection and despatch address, as the telephone is rarely manned.

Just in case the name of a little mail order business which is run by a lady called Rosemary Calder-Smith. She makes up or has made up sets of gingham things with broderie anglaise for the home like lampshades, lined baskets, hot-water bottle cover as in our drawing, granny lampshades and shoe bags. Her bedroom ranges include sheets and duvet sets, pillowcases and matched cottons and or water-pipe tubes. For the table there are tea cosies, table mats and napkins. For anything, a what-not-bag that is very pretty and baskets for hot bread or rolls.

Everything is in traditional gingham in red, brown, black, navy, pink, pale blue, turquoise blue, yellow, mauve, royal, olive green or grass green. Pretty as paint in a sunny cottage, bringing summer into the guest room, the fancy bedroom or the child's room and nice on a table in the conservatory for those who still have such sun rooms. List and direct order form from Just Gingham, Dunsden Green House, near Reading, Berks (0734-479239). If no reply there for this is a small business though an efficient one—3 Ivorra Gardens, London W2 (01-827 3087). Deliveries are free in inner London and postage is either 30p or 60p as marked on the lists. Prices are reasonable as, for example, £2 for the bread basket, £3 for the hot-water-bottle cover, £6.50 for a nightdress to match the double sheet and two pillowcases at £13.75. Shoe bags are £1, tea cosies £2.25, whatnot bags £3.50 and children's coat-hangers £1.25. Makes a pretty child's room.



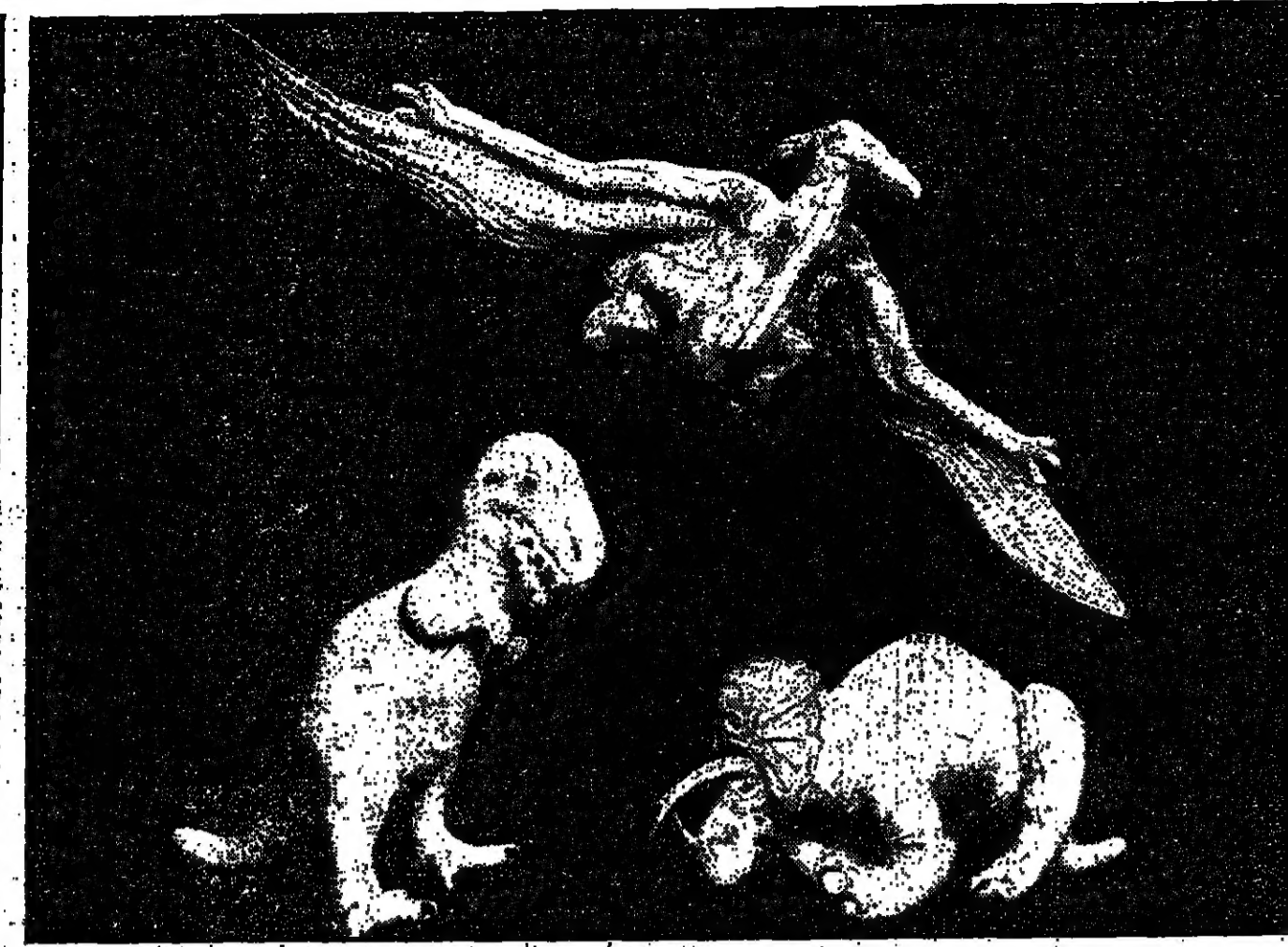
Thomas Salter, already praised for the costlier chemistry set, is good at cheaper sets too. A fingerprint kit is 99p, as are a flower-making kit and an excellent little pack of metal puzzles for all ages called Puzzle Pack. Fun with Soap is a soap-making kit at £1.99 and Fun with Optics or Magnets are £1.29 each. I find fault with a number of their other kits and I honestly do recommend shopping where you can see, feel and examine a prototype box because poor materials are terribly disappointing.

If you do not object to Smurfs and Dutch games, there is an action kit for the young (up to about nine or 10 years old) which includes an automatic toy pistol, belt and holster, handcuffs and keys, plastic walkie-talkie, identity card and a poster of Glaser and Soul in their roles. All the components are cheap but so is the total price of £3.99—there is a £5.99 set with some additions. Plastic-embedding kits are very, very good but I think few children would want perfume kits, which appeal to adults.

Magic kits are usually poorer value than buying the preferred magic tricks and practical jokes separately through Ellisons' catalogue, 10p from Magic Shop, Bedford, or from Magic Shop, There is also a magic department at Hamley's, by post

or for personal inspection and shopping and there are usually a number of specialist magic shops in larger towns and cities. Frohstick, kids by, Ancient Friends are not only realistic, original and very easy to make but gruesome enough to be loved by children for their ugliness. The kit is of plain, strong calico printed with the outlines for cutting and making up either a Pteranodon with a disproportionate wing span or a Triceratops with a rounded jaw and head. They are in most shops now and can be bought by mail from Upstairs Downstairs, 29 Tulketh Street, Southport, Merseyside for £4.95 each—look up their list in the local library for the children or see the replicas at the Natural History Museum in London. Tyrannosaurus Rex kits will appear later. Easter to complete an original trip. Children will need to be about 12 and upwards to make their own but you could make one for the younger set.

John Lewis shops have plenty of needlecraft kits to make costumes, trains, frog, buses, hamburgers and aeroplanes, all but the last with expressible faces. From 99p to £1.55. Design kits make a hedgehog with baby, spider, curly lamb, ladybird and a couple of friendly dinosaurs from Multi-Coloured Swap Shop called Brad with a scarf and Posh Paws—these are from 99p to



£3.45 and the dinosaurs are only £1.95 each. Patchwork for children, from about eight to the early teens is in a polythene pack to make either a 16-inch square cushion or one section of a quilt for a new baby—no need for new kits, for the other squares because you can use the same template with scraps of fabric from about the house, as long as you remember always to use the same weights of materials together. The diagram instructions are very clear and colours are basically reds and navy, blue and pink, brown and gold, blue and green—all floral.

Designed by a stained glass artist, these kits cost £3.70 including postage from Caroline Swash, 88 Woodwards Road, East Dulwich, London, SE22 (no callers please). Telephone 01-693 6574 for additional details if you have any queries. Building their own: dolls houses from rigid plastic panels will appeal to any child whether they end up as a garage or a small block of flats. One set makes a four-bedroom building complete with ceilings and floors, rather expensive but durable at £12.99 from Galt Toys, 30/31 Great Marlborough Street, London, W1.

The comprehensive mail order catalogue includes the sensible, tough constructional toys and some stocking fillers. They also sell the practical, tough Hangabag shown here at £6.52, an octagon of lightweight, loosely-woven plasticized fabric that holds a host of toys and hangs on white nylon rope handles. Postage is £1.40 and it is only in a duffin blue. Lustrac transfers, rubbed down to produce Paddington, birds, wildlife and action scenes like the San Francisco earthquake, the fall of Pompeii and a cavalry charge or an ambush are terrific for all ages.

are cheap and available from most toyshops, and nearly all larger W. H. Smith, John Menzies and other stationery shops. If stuck for a local stockist, inquire for one from Lustrac Consumer Products, Ashford, Kent TN23 2JU. I feel I need hardly mention the Airfix kits, always wonderful value and ready to be made into trains, boats and planes or cars but with a whole lot of less familiar scenes like command posts and jungle headquarters. The complete catalogue is 35p from Ralston Place, Garret Lane, London, SW18. Stockists from there too.

Never try Christmas shopping for children without the Tridax catalogue, the place with the two exclamation marks of which the first should be upside down, but my typewriter rebels at that. Free to The Times readers from 8 Saville Row, Bath BA1 2QP, where personal shoppers are welcomed as they are at shops in Richmond, London's Monmouth Street, Dartington in Devon, and in a couple of French towns. The catalogue is better, every year, catering for older and younger children, packed with stocking fillers, original toys and useful ones like tough rope hoist and monkey swing at £5.50 to lift bikes and motorbike to the roof for storage in small garages or merely to play underpaid firemen and rescue teams. The pedometer, wrist radio, masks, rucksacks, electric dice sets, puppets, magic fireworks, are among the host of things to tempt you. All you Paddington want, there is a little flock-sprayed figure, 2½in tall, in his pyjamas for 40p. A bag of wooden beads is only 50p to give endless pleasure but lay in the yarn or strong thread in advance. The secret agent pen's invisible ink reappears only when rubbed over with the pen's tip, lovely for spies or amorous teenagers (give them a pen each, they'll be at 50p each or 50p each pair). A Kojak wig is 70p, a signal torch red or green (flash is 95p) and a magic brain calculator to train them for the electronic age is 50p. Trust me, this is a great little catalogue all round.

A reminder about Stockingfillas catalogue of party and small toys, free from Tennant House, Sutton Bonington, Loughborough, Leicestershire LE12 5NS.

Curious Caterpillar, Halfacre Lane, Great Horwood, Herefordshire, is another catalogue of little things for areas and stockings, together with some of the bigger things like the original Robertson's marmalade golly with Golden Shred printed on its tucker and costing £1.35. Wooden rattles, flower fairy mirrors, indoor plants for dolls' houses, tiny telephones or dustpan and brush sets are all in the 50p and under category.

I have already written about The Tree House at 237 Kensington High Street, near the junction with Earl's Court Road (London, W8, telephone 01-937 7497). There are no counters and everything is out to be touched or tried although that situation gets a little desperate nearer Christmas. This year they are mail ordering some of their lines, which include original imports from America. The bathtime packs, such as bathtime chemistry, bath crystals, bath finger paints and pink bubblegum bubble bath (rather highly perfumed) are in a range called Dirty Kids at prices from about £2.15 to £4.80 per pack though postage adds as much as 56p to each of them. You and they will love Putty Soap at 51p (plus 22p postage on two packs). Just a piece of soap smelling putty in a cylindrical container, it can be moulded into soap tablets of any shape. Paint your own T-shirt kits, build your own doll's house or model with the Das kits. For stockings, but not by post, try magic pens in a set of five colours with a white pen that changes each to another colour, making 10 in all. Tiny wind-up engines, miniature jumping frogs, little swimming dolls in bikinis, and little travelling chessboards with peg-in men are all for low prices. Much recommended with plenty of parking space, near by.

adams and moustaches of many shapes as well as make-up for silver ladies or for black minstrels. Black tooth enamel to "lose" teeth is 75p and tremendously popular with children as are blood capsules for pirate games. Plastic top hats, bar-lequin bowlers, boaters, policeman, cowboy and Spanish are between 29p and 47p each in plastic, but a witch's hat is 65p and felt hats over a little more. All the prices are incredible value by today's standards and, if crackers (frighten your family, you can buy paper hats and novelties to make up little surprise packs. Mail order is efficient and fast. Paper hats and novelties to make up little surprise packs. Mail order is efficient and fast.

They love to do things and get a sense of achievement from craft and model kits, but consider most such gifts rather expensive. With that I generally agree and I do think they might be given more testing kits, probably made up by the giver out of various craft components to which can be added beads, fabric, paper, modelling clays and the like bought separately at many craft shops, whether these be Reeves, the larger W. H. Smiths and Boots shops, or money, rejecting much

specialist shops. They do not necessarily need everything cut out and ready for them so never underestimate them. It is worth repeating that their minds are everything the Equal Opportunities Commission would approve of, and there is precious little mental demarcation as to what is for boys and what for girls, so please do study the child to whom you give rather than put it into false compartments. In fact, far too many adults give the child what they think it ought to have rather than what it really wants. I remember, during my Ceylon childhood, choosing a waxy fairy doll from Gammages' catalogue one year.

In vain did my parents stress the unavailability of waxy dolls in hot climates. I had fallen in love and nothing else would do. Her entrancing features began to melt and fudge almost as soon as the insulating wrappings came off her, and the misshapen doll lived in the ice box for ever while the tinsel tarnished and the stiff white frills grew limp. I could play with her only by the ice box and look at her lying on the top of those huge blocks. But I loved her all the more despite—or because of—the tragedy of the whole situation, the partings, the dangers and her vulnerability and it was the perfect gift even if I did choose Meccano or Hornby next time.

Every one must be played with instantly so please, please check in advance on the need for batteries or anything else. And, toy-makers, while you do mark the necessary batteries on the outside of packs, please add anything such as cardboard or a wooden board and something so that it can be prepared in advance of the closed-shop days.

Do not give up the Christmas stockings. The little things in a stocking are ably a familiar one cut from mamma's nightie, are very much a thrill of early morning and should be quite distinct from the things around the stocking. The stockings thus contain all the gifts in use substitute because the two distinct types of presents, opened before breakfast around the parental or central bed, and then the later present giving are so important. As I have said before, try one treasure hunt, puzzle, scavenger hunt or something similar for older and young. The treasure at the end of the clues-trail can be small but the game itself builds up a party feeling and a sense of occasion.

Make the drinks as festive as the food, pouring the fruit juices or Cokes into lemon jugs or bowls and adding fruit or pieces of crystallized fruit and nuts to the "punch" so that it can be led out or carried in glasses to look lovely and provide spoons for the final eating up of the fruit deposits but do not hand round glasses with spoons sticking out of them if you value your carpet and your furniture.

Let the children help with anything possible, from laying the table to clearing it and make it all fun so do. They also love to help with decorations, make their own crackers, pick their own gifts around the tree. The more that everyone joins in, however old or young, the more togetherness there is. One word to all those who take in a child or elderly or lonely person for the season. Do not make him or her seem left out of anything or you might as well not have bothered.

If his very few gifts look mean compared with the number your own children or errandies are about to receive, hold back some of the later for a day or two later or give them later. Ever having a small private family Christmas as well. For those who can afford the extra line of gifts, it would not be necessary to risk the loss of the gift for a shorter period rather than risk that out-of-the-ordinary danger. And visit the many old people who do not want to leave their homes but would like to be visited with small gifts and some hot food in an insulated box—being careful to warn in advance or to find out that the old will be in. An Antiques roadshow of 80-odd years lives near my grandchildren but she loves her Christmas Day. Easter and summer visits to her minute cottage.

Thank you for the letters, young readers all. My special message to the boy who addressed me merely as "Graham" without my name but with the right address, and let me assure you that your letter reached me. And I do appreciate the messages sent by Zoe, Howard and the lady who helps to support the letters, Mrs. D. Taylor. Doreen will be heartily called on, I fear.

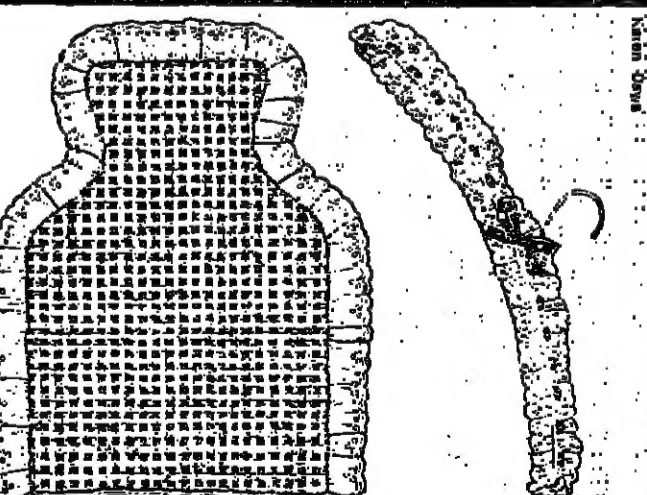
I have not mentioned the cuddly toys because, apart from the teddy bear which crops up pretty often, there is such a wide choice and a lot of the cuddlies are made up by the giver out of various craft components to which can be added beads, fabric, paper, modelling clays and the like bought separately at many craft shops, whether these be Reeves, the larger W. H. Smiths and Boots shops, or money, rejecting much



Drawing by Jennat Houston



Photograph by Trevor Saulton



two units has a compass and a Morse-code buzzer (which does need a couple of PP3 batteries). Peter Starr, also in nose, chose a bottle-chopper (£3) to convert bottles into glasses, lamp bases, vases, tapkins and such like. He also went for a book on the subject for 50p—you note that this was a boy like what is scheduled as a girl's toy. Gabriel Proctor writes a very mature letter for an 11-year-old and she chose a magic crystal set which allegedly makes a magic garden from crystals planted in a special solution (£1.15). She tried twice but pronounced it a complete failure because "both times all I produced was a stringy thing that looked more like string than the cat had eaten than any beautiful underwater plant". She does however recommend the Lino Cut set with all the tools and printing instructions (£5). But she says that it does not include paper for printing on; an

inked block to roll the ink on cardboard to make a strong base that prevents the paper tearing when even wet to join in the family's Monopoly game, which Richard has never tired of him.

His other choice, Action Man Sailor at £4.49, is constantly playing at war or peace with his other two Action Men and Richard reports that they are all acting on very well together. Sailor's eyes rove and roll realistically. One of my grandsons has the sailor and involves him in fierce games, but I was touched, when the boy had gone home, to find the tiny, active hero tucked beneath the duvet, his head on the pillow.

Little Rebecca WYcock, aged three, chose a set of little books about cuddly Paddington because she wants her own row of books like Mummy and she had a uniform to be like the nurse lady who took her to hospital.

when he scalded his arm—pawse outfit is easy to make, but can be bought for under £5. Her mother found the bought object "doubtful value, unlikely to take much wear and tear, so get out the sewing machine. She would have loved a furry basket bound with batteries operate walking, sniffing, barking and tail-wagging, but he is £12.45 alas.

Alison and Angus Jeffery are four and two, and she is not keen on the battery of dolls she has been given so she chose a paddle boat powered by a wind-up rubber band, looking like the Kon-Tiki raft but considered to be more like a rubber band is not well held and the value for money seems generally poor.

The second choice, a pop-up Jack-in-the-box music box were enraptured as they turned the handle to make music which, when ended, allowed Jack to be repacked

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